



Daily Report

Latin America

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Rio Group To Ask EC To Eliminate Commercial Barriers
*PY0604151693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0616 GMT
6 Apr 93*

[Text] Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 6 Apr (EFE)—The foreign ministers of the Rio Group countries, who are meeting in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz, have demanded commercial freedom and democracy throughout the world and have readmitted Panama and Peru to the group.

During a two-day meeting that will end today, the ministers announced that during a "summit" with their EC counterparts scheduled for April in Copenhagen, they will demand commercial freedom without protectionism or barriers.

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, the secretary of the group, announced that the member countries will ask European Community countries to eliminate commercial barriers affecting Latin America, thus alluding to the difficulties in the negotiations at the Uruguay GATT Round.

Silva added that, in Copenhagen, the Rio Group will inform EC countries that the European Investment Bank has been authorized to operate in Latin America.

He said that the Rio Group ministers will also tell their EC counterparts that "their countries firmly defend democracy and respect human rights."

Silva reported on the formation of a "troika" [preceding word given in Russian] within the Rio Group, made up of the foreign ministers of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, who will visit Tokyo in May to meet with the Japanese foreign minister.

The Rio Group will thus seek to open new markets and a way of transferring technology from Japan and other Asian countries.

During the Santa Cruz meeting, the Rio Group for the first time debated the problem of corruption.

Silva Cimma said that the protempore secretariat of the group will sponsor a seminar to explain the programs that will seek to eliminate corruption from democratic administrations.

The foreign ministers decided to readmit Panama and Peru to the group.

Panama, one of the founders of the group, was expelled in 1988 through a communique issued in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. The expulsion was prompted by the fall of the then Panamanian President Eric Arturo del Valle, a move masterminded by General Manuel Antonio Noriega who controlled power in the country.

Peru was expelled after Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori dissolved Congress and suspended Constitutional rights in April 1992.

Silva Cimma said that the foreign ministers of the Rio Group will today issue a statement on the situation in Haiti and Cuba.

The Rio Group comprises Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras (which represents Central America), Jamaica (which represents Caribbean countries), Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro attended the Santa Cruz meeting—instead of Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carlos Zapata—to report on the pacification process in his country.

The foreign ministers will today prepare the agenda for the Rio Group presidential "summit" that will be held in Santiago de Chile in October.

Foreign Ministers Issue Banana Declaration

PA0704023393 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Apr 93 p A3

["Banana Declaration" issued by the Central American foreign ministers in Panama City on 2 April]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, Colombia, and Ecuador agree:

1. To rescind the decision adopted by the presidents of the banana-producing countries on 11 February 1993 in the City of Guayaquil, rejecting the new rules imposed by the EC on banana imports to the community market because it violates GATT principles and will result in harmful consequences to the economies and workers of our countries.
2. To reaffirm the joint, firm, and coherent efforts of the Latin American banana producers to open the market for this fruit within the GATT framework.
3. To reject the EC proposal to compensate for the economic and social damages caused by the new banana regulations by establishing a Compensation Fund.
4. To maintain the unity of Latin American producers in the face of measures aimed at dividing said unity, such as granting individual, preferential treatment to countries, and the application of GATT norms in a discriminatory manner.

Issued in Panama City on 2 April 1993.

Latin American Exports Increase by 28 Percent

*PY0604153293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2351 GMT
5 Apr 93*

[Text] Montevideo, 5 Apr (EFE)—The Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) reported today, 5 April, that exports among Latin American countries increased 28 percent in 1992, reaching a record \$19.4 billion.

The increase was recorded for the sixth consecutive year. In 1991 exports increased 24 percent, doubling that recorded in 1985.

The ALADI report states that the most relevant cause of this important increase was the 54-percent increase in Brazilian exports, which totaled more than \$7.6 billion—39 percent of overall sales within the region.

With the sole exception of Bolivia, the increase applied to all countries that have had important positive balances: Mexican exports to the region increased by \$395 million; Argentine exports increased by \$384 million; Chilean exports increased by \$328 million; Colombian exports by \$198 million; Venezuelan exports by \$188 million; and Peruvian exports by \$184 million.

The ALADI report mentioned the increasing trade resulting from subregional agreements like the Andean Group and the Mercosur [Common Market of the South], whose members are also members of ALADI.

Exports within the Andean subregion increased by 20 percent in 1992, reaching an unprecedented \$2.129 billion which surpassed by more than \$350 million the \$1.775 billion recorded in the previous year.

This increase results from an increase in sales by Colombia (\$222 million), Venezuela (\$169 million), and Bolivia (\$6 million).

Figures were negative within the Andean Pact with drops of \$28 million in exports by Ecuador and \$15 million by Peru.

Colombian exports, which are an important factor in the subregion, doubled compared with 1991. They reached \$1 billion in 1992, showing a 29 percent-increase in one year. This increase is reflected in increased sales to Venezuela (\$129 million), to Peru (\$58 million), to Ecuador (\$29 million), and to Bolivia (\$6 million).

The increase by 39 percent in Venezuelan exports in the subregion—which reached \$600 million—stems from increased exports to Colombia (\$160 million) and, to a lesser degree, to Peru (\$12 million).

These increases contrast with the drop in sales to Ecuador (\$3 million) and a stagnation in those to Bolivia.

In turn, Bolivia increased its exports to the subregion by 7 percent, reaching \$96 million, while those of Ecuador dropped by 14 percent and those of Peru by 6 percent.

Exports within the Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) increased to unprecedented figures in 1992. They increased to more than \$7.1 billion—an increase of 40 percent.

The ALADI report states that, for the fifth consecutive year, there has been an increase within Mercosur with an average annual increase of 27 percent since 1987.

The increase in 1992 was mainly due to Brazilian exports worth \$1.820 billion.

Brazil exported to Argentina products worth \$3.070 billion—doubling that of 1991; to Uruguay worth \$180 million; and to Paraguay worth \$45 million.

Venezuelan Trade Official on Caricom Investment Agreement

FL0504222393 Bridgetown CANA in English 2139
GMT 5 Apr 93

[Report by Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 5, CANA—Despite a late response to the Caribbean Community (Caricom)-Venezuela Trade and Investment Agreement, an official from the Spanish-speaking country believes that business between the two regions will grow when "inherent problems" are overcome.

"...I think there was a late start and it is due to... difficulty in transport, the cultural barriers, language barriers, but we're overcoming that," Oscar Hernandez, the director general of the Venezuelan Government's Institute of Foreign Trade told CANA.

"It's a late start, but it's a start and I think the start is going to be faster than what we thought even when we started to talk about a possible agreement."

Hernandez said that as a result of the agreement, there were now chocolate and other manufactured products from Trinidad and Tobago on the Venezuelan market. Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister, Patrick Manning, as chairman of Caricom last October signed the historic Caricom-Venezuela Trade and Investment Agreement that came into effect at the beginning of this year.

Certain aspects of the pact include an agreed list of more than 150 products that qualify for immediate duty-free entry to the South American market, another group of 162 products for phased reduction, and a third group that will be accorded most-favoured-nation treatment as will Caricom imports from Venezuela.

A joint council which comprise officials from both regions is expected to hold its fourth meeting this month to discuss matters relating to the agreement and also to develop areas of the agreement covering services. Stating that the agreement was not a "paper document," Hernandez, added that it opened up extraordinary opportunities for businessmen in both regions in the future.

"This agreement in the first place is going to be successful if the business community of Caricom countries and Venezuela are able to walk across the bridge that the governments have built," he said.

Stating that it was important to understand the reason Venezuela had offered the agreement to Caricom, Hernandez said it was a specific policy of the South American government to create an "economic space" with Central America and Caricom. Venezuela, he said, was also in the last stage of negotiating a free trade agreement with Central America.

"We're looking for confidence. We didn't make history.... We didn't put us backward. It is the reality of history that has made it that.

"Somebody had to give the first step. If we had tried to sit down and negotiate this (Caricom) agreement on the premise that we would get some way of reciprocity, this agreement would not be gone through because for a simple reason Caricom sees Venezuela as a very challenging market. It is a market that can immediately take over and in some way (cause) distortion to your own products."

Hernandez also said the Venezuela-Caricom agreement should be the base for an association including Colombia. The recently concluded inter-sessional meeting of Caricom heads of government had accepted the proposal of the government of Colombia that steps be taken for the negotiation of a Caricom/Colombia trade and investment agreement, which will take into account the varying levels of economic development of the countries involved.

"I think it would be beneficial overall, not only for the Venezuela-Caricom agreement, but also for integration of Colombia and Venezuela and also for the spirit of integration we have been talking about.

"So one of the things we will see and they will be confirming in the very near future, is that Colombia will exactly try to be part of our integration process with the Venezuela-Caricom agreement."

Cuba

Robaina Holds News Conference on Foreign Policy

FL0704131693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina held his first news conference with the accredited press in Cuba, during which he ratified essential aspects of Cuba's line of principles in the international arena, including relations with the United States.

Robaina acknowledged that the current U.S. Administration has been less aggressive toward Cuba than its predecessor, but pointed out that terrorist actions continue to be organized on U.S. territory, such as the recent tanker attack off the coast of Cuba.

As he answered questions on deadlines issued abroad for the fall of the Revolution, Robaina invited the foreign press accredited in Havana to meet with him again on each of the dates projected for the supposed disaster.

Concerning Cuba's willingness to negotiate with Washington, the Cuban foreign minister reiterated that Cuba has always been willing to do so, without conditions that could harm the sovereignty of the nation and without concession of principles. Robaina likewise stressed the continuity of Cuba's foreign policy, which he said is not improvised or altered with the replacement of a minister.

Commentary on U.S. Involvement in Terrorist Actions

PA0704125393 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In a direct or indirect fashion, or simply by demonstrating indifference, the last eight U.S. Administrations have had a great deal to do with terrorist actions carried out against Cuba. The island has been subjected to a long list of aggressions carried out by all means with the most unbelievable pretexts. These range from air attacks on sugarcane plantations to blowing up a French merchant ship at the Havana port in 1960. Cuban counterrevolutionary organizations, fascist type, have contributed for over three decades to the direct perpetration of countless attacks, in many cases sponsored by the CIA.

Although during the 1980's and 1990's the actions of these extremists declined sharply, the truth is that they have never ceased. On 29 December 1991, the Cuban Coast Guard captured an infiltration commando that had come from the United States. Their mission was to set up explosive devices in public places to create panic.

In the context of an outright display of aggression toward the Cuban process and in attacks against growing exiled sectors that speak out in favor of a civilized dialogue with Havana, these armed actions could be repeated. On 2 April, a speedboat fired on a Cypriot flagged ship in

waters along the northern Matanzas Province. The crew of the pirate boat, who were only able to cause minor damage to the ship, sailed to the north after the criminal attack.

The most conservative wing of the exiled Cubans, among which stand out Alpha 66, Omega Seven, and commandos [name indistinct], do not accept Cuba's survival in spite of the international blockade. It is true there is no evidence that the current democratic administration sponsors anti-Cuban terrorism. Nevertheless, many exiled persons have based their life style on subversion, therefore, they have no intention of withdrawing.

The slowness and the indifference with which the Florida authorities confront the preparations and accusations of terrorist missions against Cuba, is a tacit approval of those who make their fortune with these adventures. An official confrontation against those well-identified terrorists would send them a clear message.

Basic Industry Vice Minister on Foreign Capital in Oil Industry

FL0604202393

[Editorial Report] Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish at 0234 GMT on 31 March carries live its "Open Agenda" program on foreign capital in the oil industry. Program host Antonio Resillez introduces his guest, Jesus Perez Othon, the first vice minister of the Ministry of Basic Industry [Minbas] responsible for supervising all oil activities, such as exploration, extraction, refinement, and distribution.

Resillez expresses interest in Perez's reasons for categorically stating, in a recent news conference, that there are large amounts of oil, superior to what is being extracted. He says that a large amount of information has been collected, organized, and interpreted since the revolution triumphed adding that 60,000 km of seismic lines have been charted both on land and sea and many detailed stratigraphic, geochemical, and analytic, as well as aeromagnetic studies, have been conducted.

Perez adds that many foreign firms have a great interest to continue working in new areas and areas where there is a possibility of finding oil but that the drill has the final word. He states: "Drilling must be done to truly determine the quantity and quality of oil we have." He says that they have to wait until 1997 or 1998 to learn if the anticipated results are positive.

Resillez asks how important the proposed 1.3 million tons of oil to be extracted in 1993 is to the domestic economy. Perez says: "In 1989, Cuba consumed 11.6 million tons of oil. In 1992, Cuba consumed 6.9 million tons and it is projected that Cuba will import 6 million tons of oil in 1993. When you add 6 million to 1.3 million you get 7.3 million. So you can see how really important it is for the country to extract these 1.3 million tons." He compares the 882,000 tons of oil extracted in 1992 with the 1.3 million to be extracted in 1993 and

says that this is an important step in the infrastructure, which must be created to obtain the extraction of these tons.

Perez notes that the majority of Cuba's oil is extremely viscous, and has such a high percentage of sulfur that it is almost impossible to refine. He says: "To refine it, it would have to be mixed with other crude oils." He mentions that another possibility is to mix it with fuel oil but fuel oil is also very viscous, so right now the only option Cuba has is to burn it. He adds research is being conducted to find practical and quick solutions. Cuban fuel is being mixed with a solvent to be burned in electric and cement plants, nickel factories, and some sugarcane mills.

Resillez asks about the importance of the gases that accompany the oil and their importance to the economy. Perez categorizes the gas into two classes, free and mixed. He says that free gas is very easy to use because you can close the well and contain it but mixed gas requires special installations to separate it from the oil and collect it. He explains that this gas can be substituted for acetylene, or gas for cars, or used in electric generation plants, and it can be burned as a fuel.

Perez estimates the value of the 1.3 million tons of oil to be extracted this year at \$110 million, approximately \$84 per ton. He notes that the oil program also has expenses but by the end of the year it had earned between \$50-55 million. Resillez asks how many workers are involved in oil activities and Perez replies 21,000 workers, 7,600 workers specifically in the oil program. He explains that in 1991 and 1992 studies were done to increase the enterprises' efficiency.

A video segment reports on a drilling and extraction facility in Varadero. This region of Cuba provides 75 percent of the nation's oil. Efforts are being made to improve its operation in order to extract 1 million tons of oil in 1993 while protecting the environment.

The program continues with excerpts of a video interview with Manolo Menendez, secretary of the National Union, which includes oil workers, during a visit to an oil enterprise in Guanabacoa. He talked about the importance of reaching the goal of extracting 1.3 million tons of oil in 1993. The workers are very optimistic that they will reach the goal because they are well-prepared and enthusiastic and they have pledged to do everything possible to reach this goal.

Resillez adds that Cuba recently began holding international bids in Canada and London to obtain foreign capital assistance with the intention of establishing a financial and technical cooperation in finding and extracting oil. He asks Perez why Cuba had to resort to these international auctions.

Perez replies that Cuba resorted to the bids because oil prospecting is very expensive and a country like Cuba does not have the necessary money to do it alone. He adds that Cuba used to receive \$60 million in rubles

from the Soviet Union every year for prospecting rights but this money has not been received now for several years so Cuba had to look for another alternative and this was one of the best ways found.

A video interview with engineer Juan Fleites, director of CUPET [Cuban Commercial Petroleum], is shown, in which Fleites discusses the ramifications of joint enterprises and financial arrangements in Cuba. He says that the oil or gas that is discovered will always belong to the Cuban state. He explains that what happens is that a foreign company, who comes to Cuba to do exploration, makes an investment by giving Cuba credit. Cuba, in turn, guarantees that this credit will be repaid with a portion of the oil or gas that is discovered. If no oil or gas is found then Cuba does not have to pay anything. He says that is why these contracts are called Risk Contracts because it is a risk the company takes.

Fleites says that the company's interests are protected by the Cuban Constitution. He recalls that: "On 12 July, the National Assembly approved certain modifications to the Cuban Constitution, which being a socialist state, we have a constitution that corresponds to a socialist state, nevertheless, it recognizes that private companies can operate in Cuba in accordance with our laws, and the state recognizes the rights and properties of these private companies that operate in Cuba in accordance to Cuban laws and which benefit our economy. Our civil law also recognizes the property of these companies, and legally protects the properties and interests that these companies could have in Cuba." He concludes by noting that Decree-Law No. 50 clearly states that the properties and rights of these companies are protected by Cuban law.

Resillez asks Perez for his evaluation of the bids held in Canada and London. Perez explains that the bids were part of the programs outlined and are based on experiences obtained over the years. He saw that something different had to be done so the country was divided into 33 blocks, 23 blocks on land and 10 in the sea; of these 33 blocks, we chose to auction 11 blocks. He said Calgary and London were chosen because they are both important world oil centers and a total of 85 companies participated in the two auctions; 48 were oil extraction companies and the rest were service and consulting firms. He reports that bids should be in by 2 August and Cuba has until 30 September to decide which bids to accept and then the negotiations will commence. Perez says that each company was given information on Cuban laws, an evaluation of each block, the decision of our ministers, a foreign investment guide, catalog data, and a sample contract.

Resillez asks if these companies are pressured in any way by the hostile trade policy carried out by the U.S. Government. Perez says that four days after their presentation in Calgary, an article was published saying that the Cuban oil industry has risks. The article says that Canadian oil workers have received death threats from exiled Cuban residents living in Miami and that between the U.S. embargo and the hostile policies of Cubans

groups in Miami, the situation is very delicate. He says: "We know that there will be many companies that will not come, but we know that many companies will come,—like those that are here, which are very brave, and have economic independence and ethics—and we are sure they are going to do business with Cuba because they see the possibility of doing a good business in Cuba."

The 44-minute program concludes with Resillez thanking Perez, on behalf of the program's staff, for appearing on the program.

Breakdowns, Fuel Shortages Cause Power Outages

FL0604141793 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The Electric Union has announced that electric service has been affected throughout the entire country, beginning Sunday evening [4 April] and continuing through today. These power outages have been caused by breakdowns in two blocks of the Diez de Octubre electric plant in Nuevitas and in one block of the electric plant in Regla, Havana. In addition, there have been difficulties in supplying fuel to the Maximo Gomez electric plant in Mariel, and the Talla Piedra electric plant in Havana.

They are working on repairing the breakdowns and hope to solve the problem with fuel supplies within the next few hours. Once the generation level is restored, the program of scheduled power outages will resume.

Foreign Minister Meets With Mexican Envoy, Delegation

FL0604133593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina met at Foreign Ministry headquarters with a Mexican delegation headed by Mexican Ambassador Jose Alberto Lozoya, director in chief of cultural affairs of the secretariat of foreign relations. During their meeting, they described the development of bilateral relations in various spheres as positive. They discussed Mexico's participation in the upcoming Caribbean Festival dedicated to that country.

Fifty Caribbean Businessmen Participate in Conference 6 Apr

FL0604185093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The first Caribbean Businessmen Conference began today at the Hotel Nacional with the participation of over 50 Caribbean businessmen who will study Cuba's industrial possibilities. The opening ceremony was chaired by Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas who said that this meeting will address the existing interest on how Cuba is confronting the current difficult economic situation and provide a great opportunity to show changes made and production lines added to the Cuban economy. Cabrisas point out how, within this context, economic ties can be expanded.

[Begin Cabrisas recording] Our prioritized interest in expanding every type of tie with the brotherly countries of Latin America and the Caribbean has been expressed and is known. Our willingness to give preferential treatment to investment from businessmen in the region is also a matter of public knowledge. For this reason, dear friends, we were convinced that we should not let more time pass before convening businessmen from this region to give them all the information and elements necessary to analyze and make decisions on the possibility of doing business with Cuba; in addition to putting you in contact with the Cuban reality. The goal of this meeting is to get closer to the Caribbean, giving the Caribbean business sector an essential role in consolidating this process of Cuba's openness to the region in line with the progress made in recent times with the Caribbean Common Market at the institutional level. [end recording]

During the first session, Marcos Portal, a member of the Council of State and the Minister of Basic Industry, spoke about approaches to the Cuban economy. Bank services and foreign investments will be discussed in the evening session.

Foreign Relations Vice Minister Attends Business Meeting in Rome

FL0704022793 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] In Rome today, Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Ramon Sanchez-Parodi said that Cuba's economic system is not going to change, despite the opening to foreign capital, and that the system will continue to be based on socialist property ownership. Sanchez-Parodi is attending a meeting in which almost 100 Italian businessmen are participating and at which the idea that ties with Cuban enterprises are favorable on both the professional and human levels prevails.

Vice President, Foreign Minister Receive Credentials of Turkish Envoy

FL0704015293 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Commander of the revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, vice president of the Council of State, today received, at a solemn ceremony, Aykut Berk, who presented his credentials as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey. Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, foreign minister, participated in the ceremony. Accompanying the new Turkish ambassador was Mr. (Mehmet Hakan Akay), second secretary of the Turkish Embassy. Following the ceremony, the ambassador and his entourage went to Revolution Square and laid flowers before the monument to Jose Marti.

China Assisting With Aid for Recent Storm

FL0604231793 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The head of the PRC Red Cross has stated in Beijing that the friendship between his country and Cuba inspired the PRC Government and Red Cross to help the island, which was hit hard recently by a strong storm. In statements to PRENSA LATINA, (Qu Sheh) said the two states and peoples are friends. For that reason, China is assisting Cuba during this natural catastrophe. He also explained that the aid of the association he heads came close to \$20,000 and that of government authorities to close to \$1 million, distributed essentially in medicines, foodstuffs, and construction materials.

Afro-Asian-Latin American Organization Commemorates 'Land of Palestine Day'

FL0704013693 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization was again the scene of a noble and fraternal commemoration. I am talking about Land of Palestine Day.

Representatives of countries and movements that are—on all continents—the victims of imperialism's action, were present and they reiterated their solidarity with the Palestinian cause. For the Palestinians, this commemoration has both internal and external characteristics, however.

[Begin Yaser Aero recording in Arabic with simultaneous translation into Spanish] [Identified by caption as a member of the PLO's executive committee] The Palestinian people have not given the Israelis a minute's rest in the territories that Israel is illegally occupying, and the Intifada has arisen as a response to the situation they find themselves subjected to.

We are going to the ninth round of talks. However, the proposals being presented by Israel are unacceptable because the Israelis want peace but they also want the land of Palestine. [end recording]

While this was going on in Havana, in the occupied territories another Palestinian died, murdered by the Zionist Army; and in Washington, U.S. President William Clinton and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were meeting. [passage omitted]

Beninese President Sends Congratulatory Message

FL0704140193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Nicephore Soglo, the president of the Republic of Benin, sent a congratulatory message to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on the occasion of Castro's reelection as president of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba. The African leader noted that the people of Cuba massively renewed their trust in the head of the Cuban

Revolution. He also expressed his appreciation for the ties of cooperation that unite the two peoples and states.

Haiti

Bazin Replies to Dupiton's Letter Asking for Update on Negotiations

FL0604184493 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Consensus Prime Minister Marc Bazin has replied to Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton's 29 March letter, which asked Bazin for an update on the negotiations. In answering the senator's letter, the prime minister addressed it point by point. First, Marc Bazin agreed with Dupiton that the Villa d'Accueil Agreement binds the Parliament, the Haitian Armed Forces, and the government.

Bazin continues by citing those statements by the senator that he does not share. Bazin refers to the joint working group he created. This working group began on 29 January with a session Bazin held in his home with Special Envoy Dante Caputo. He tells Sen. Dupiton that his statement that the two chambers have been ignored in the negotiations is not true at all because he [Dupiton] himself participated in all those activities, not to mention the information he received from the head of the provisional government by phone.

Concerning the release of sailor Coracelin Williams, Bazin says that he will not get into details at this time, but that this is a big deal and that he is amazed that Sen. Dupiton has reawakened this file. Sen. Dupiton had asked the prime minister why he took it upon himself to hand the soldier over to the U.S. authorities.

Nobody can arrest, try, or jail foreign observers for statements they make while carrying out their duties. This is a passage that the prime minister excerpted from the terms of reference—the agreement authorizing the observers to come to the country—to remind Sen. Dupiton that he cannot use the juridical arsenal of the Constitution and the law of the Republic against the [international] civilian observers.

At the conclusion of his reply, Prime Minister Bazin says that everything his government has negotiated has been negotiated out of concern for a wide sector of the country and to inform everyone without distinction. However, since Haitians supposedly do not wish to sit together to negotiate, it is only the special envoy who spoke to everyone for everyone. So only Dante Caputo knows what everybody thinks. Bazin tells Dupiton that it is not the fault of the government if there are things of which he is not aware, but that it is the result of an irrefutable fact.

Sen. Dupiton had sent the consensus prime minister an open letter in which he pointed out that Parliament has been excluded from negotiations and has heard about what is going on only through the radio and bush

telegraph. Sen. Dupiton also took exception to the fact that the UN/OAS representatives did not meet with members of his alliance during their latest visit whereas they did meet with opposition parliamentarians.

PANPRA Accepts International Community's Participation in Negotiations

FL0604180893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The Nationalistic Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, PANPRA, reaffirms its position of principle at this political junction. Following an extraordinary meeting between coordination and executive offices on 4 April, the heads of PANPRA rejected any solution of force that calls national sovereignty into question. The party says it accepts participation of the international community in the current negotiations as a force for mediation and for facilitation of dialogue among the Haitian parties.

Referring to the Villa D'Accueil Agreement, PANPRA considers the mandate of the current government terminated by the conclusion of any new agreement stemming from the current negotiations. PANPRA is asking its directors and members of the government to prepare their cases in view of a democratic and transparent transfer.

Regarding the embargo and economic sanctions against Haiti, PANPRA invites all concerned parties to give priority to these two points, and favors the continuation of negotiations and avoidance of all delay tactics from any source.

People's Organizations Issue Statement on 29 March Demonstration

FL0604211193 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Jocelyn Jean in Cap-Haitien—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Jean] On 1 April, the People's Organizations of the North, which comprises over six organizations, issued a statement in which they clearly explain the objectives of a 29 March demonstration. According to these six organizations, the objectives of the 29 March demonstration were to demand: first, the resignation of the current government; second, the return to a prime minister who does not side with

coupists; and third, the trial of the 30 September 1991 criminals such as General Cedras and Colonel Michel Francois.

On 1 April, in clarifying the true objectives of the 29 March demonstration, the organizations did not spare anyone. They took a much tougher stand in view of Mr. (Robin Marsh), a Jamaican member of the civilian mission in Cap-Haitien who stated on 31 March—two days after the 29 March demonstration—that if a demonstration is staged without authorization from the police—because they work according to Haiti's law and Constitution—they [the organizations] cannot speak of violation of human rights. [sentence as heard]

[Unidentified speaker] The [word indistinct] has allowed us to understand that the United Nations and the OAS do not at all want democracy and President Titide [Aristide's nickname] to really return to the country—as the people wish—whereas, the OAS and the United Nations are helping the coupists continue to stall for time, to form plots against the people, to choose a de facto prime minister, to keep Aristide in exile, and to hamper the mobilization and the resistance of the people. In view of such a situation, the Platform of the People's Organizations of the North [Platform Organization Popile No] ask the people to hold out, to stand up to hamper any plots against them by the UN/OAS civilian mission and the coupists, and to wait for other watchwords that the people's organizations in the platform will send in the next few days.

Army Cleans Up Posters, Slogans, Conducts Patrols

FL0504211893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Leonard Exantus in Saint-Marc—recorded in Creole]

[Text] In Saint-Marc, the Army has cleaned up the posters and slogans that were defacing the city's walls. These posters and slogans were asking for the return of the ousted president. Leonard Exantus has more details.

[Exantus] On 4 April at 0900, two trucks loaded with soldiers and hired thugs were out on the streets to pick up used tires that were strewn in the streets of Saint-Marc. Those trucks patrolled every street and even tires at repair shops were taken. This operation ended by 1300. This incident made many people wonder.

Furthermore, three military men were transferred, including the chief of police at the Saint-Marc Barracks, Mr. (Saint-Anneau Sainvilus), and a very powerful military man with the nickname Sheriff. He was transferred to Mole Saint-Nicolas.

Jamaica

Cabinet of Prime Minister Patterson Announced

FL0604220093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1949
GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 6, CANA—Following is the cabinet named Tuesday by Jamaica's prime minister, Percival Patterson:

1. P.J. Patterson	prime minister and minister of defence
2. Seymour Mullings	deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture
3. Hugh Small	minister of finance
4. Portia Simpson	minister of labour and welfare
5. O.D. Ramtallie	minister of construction
6. Horace Clarke	minister of water and transport
7. Robert Pickersgill	minister of public utilities, mining, and energy
8. Dr. Paul Robertson	minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade
9. David Coore	minister of legal affairs
10. Dr. Peter Phillips	minister without portfolio
11. Carlyle Dunkley	minister of tourism, commerce, and industry
12. K.D. Knight	minister of national security and justice
13. Easton Douglas	minister of public service and the environment
14. Burchell Whiteman	minister of education and culture
15. Desmond Leakey	minister of health
16. John Junor	minister of local government, youth, and community development
17. Dr. Omar Davies	minister without portfolio

Shuffling of Positions Noted

FL0604221193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2043
GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 6, CANA—Jamaica's prime minister, P.J. Patterson, brought back Horace Clarke, but largely shifted portfolios rather than introduced new personalities in a 17-member cabinet he named Tuesday. Fifteen months ago, Clarke, 61, was forced out of Michael Manley's government over a Shell Oil company duty waiver scandal that eventually counted Patterson among its victims. They had waived J30 million dollars (1 Jamaica dollar = about 4.5 U.S. cents) in duties on unleaded gasoline imported by the oil company.

Patterson came back within three months when he won the leadership of the People's National Party (PNP) a year ago. But Clarke, a trusted Patterson ally, had to await the prime minister's gaining of "his own" mandate in general elections here a week ago that returned the

PNP to office. The one-time mining and energy minister was named to the newly created Ministry of Water and Transport, two of the most troublesome public utilities in Jamaica.

The only totally new face in the cabinet is Dr. Omar Davies, the director general of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, who was made a minister without portfolio in the office of the prime minister.

While all ministers from the last government retained cabinet positions, there has been considerable shuffling of positions. The veteran David Coore, a senator, has been switched from foreign affairs to a new ministry—legal affairs. Senator Carlyle Dunkley will now include tourism alongside his previous responsibilities of commerce and industry, while the former tourism minister, John Junor, now has responsibility for local government, which is to be reformed this year.

The previous local government minister, Desmond Leakey, now goes to the Ministry of Health, formerly held by Easton Douglas, who now takes responsibility for public service and the environment. Robert Pickersgill, relieved of his responsibilities for water and transportation, retains responsibility for public utilities in addition to mining and energy, previously assigned to Dunkley.

Patterson himself will retain responsibility for defence and information, development, economic, and social planning. The prime minister said he would be formally appointing agriculture minister Seymour Mullings as deputy prime minister. Mullings will also have responsibility for parliamentary affairs, electoral reform, and the promised implementation of a national registration programme.

Portia Simpson, who challenged Patterson for leadership of the PNP following Michael Manley's retirement, still retains the Ministry of Labour and Welfare. However, Patterson said a decision was still to be taken as to which ministry would be assigned sports, also held during the previous administration by Simpson.

The post of attorney general, not technically of cabinet rank, will be retained by Carl Rattray. Among those retaining their original positions is Finance Minister Hugh Small, who had replaced Patterson in the job and who had supported Simpson in the election to replace Manley. The construction minister is O.D. Ramtallie.

Patterson Condemns JLP Decision To 'Partially' Boycott Parliament

FL0604222993 Bridgetown CANA in English 2210
GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 6, CANA—Jamaica's prime minister, Percival Patterson, on Tuesday condemned the decision by the opposition Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] to partially boycott Parliament. Patterson

also rejected a call by opposition leader Edward Seaga for a commission of enquiry into malpractices during last week's election.

The prime minister, speaking at a press conference to announce a 17 member cabinet which will carry the reins of government during the five years, also appeared to suggest legal recourse should the JLP carry through its threat to partially boycott parliament. Patterson's People's National Party won a big victory in the elections, marred by fraud and intimidation in some urban constituencies and widespread administrative bungling.

Seaga, who had previously conceded that his party would [words indistinct] the elections even had there been no irregularities, demanded late Monday that an enquiry into the conduct of the poll be established under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Edward Zacca. He also called for the resignation of electoral director, Noel Lee, and police commissioner, Roy Thompson, as well as the removal of the police force from control by the political Directorate.

The opposition leader said his party would boycott sittings of the House of Representatives "save those (legally) required to retain our seats," would waive its right to appoint senators to Parliament, and would boycott all elections—including local government polls which are due this year—unless its demands are met.

But Patterson told journalists that there was no justification for an enquiry into the elections, since Jamaica's laws already provided "clear redress" for any candidate or voter who can substantiate that, as a result of malpractices taking place, the election results are so tainted, as to be set aside by the courts.

He questioned the constitutionality of the opposition's plan to partially boycott Parliament and appeared to suggest possible legal recourse by the government should Seaga carry through his threat not to appoint the eight senators to which the opposition is entitled.

"Without attempting to settle all the legal issues involved, it is sufficient to say that the law is not powerless to deal with.... A situation where constitutional authority refuses to carry out its function.

"I intend to carry out my duties to appoint the senators (the government is entitled to 13). He (Seaga) must either be prepared to perform his duties as leader of the opposition or step aside for one who will," said Patterson.

He pointed out that once sworn in as leader of the opposition, Seaga would be required to "perform certain functions in accordance with the Constitution and the law." If he does not accept that invitation, said Patterson, the governor general would have to appoint someone else.

Patterson, a lawyer, said "there is a legal method by which Mr. Seaga can be compelled to perform his duties

once he accepts the position (but) it is not my intention to give Mr. Seaga gratuitous legal advice."

The prime minister questioned whether the JLP members of Parliament (expected to number at least seven with the final vote count not yet complete), would be intending "to draw their salaries without performing...." And to sit on parliamentary bodies such as the public accounts committee "which.... performs critical functions with respect to public accountability."

Patterson chastised Seaga for calling for Lee and Thompson to step down. He said the "continued personal attacks" on Lee were unwarranted and placed him "at great personal risk." Lee, he pointed out, had been appointed by a bi-partisan electoral committee, at a time when the JLP constituted the government.

"The practise of attacking the incumbent public officer, simply because the results are disappointing to the loser, is shameful," he said.

He labelled Seaga's attack on the commissioner of police "scandalous" and pointed out that demands regarding the replacement of the Police Services Commission which governs appointments and dismissals in the force by an impartial body were already being addressed by a task force agreed on by both parties under the chairmanship of High Court Judge Lensley Wolfe. The report is expected to be turned in shortly.

"In any case," Patterson said, "that is a constitutional matter which can only be changed when the Constitution is being amended."

He reiterated his government's intention, announced at his swearing in as prime minister on Saturday, that every effort would be made through a new computerised system, electoral reform, and national registration to improve the electoral system. The electoral irregularities, he argued, occurred in "identifiable constituencies" and were carried out by both sides. All had agreed that the final result of the election was not influenced, he said.

Labor Party To Boycott Parliamentary Sessions

FL0604171193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1536 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Report by Garfield Myers]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 6, CANA—The opposition Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] says it will boycott parliamentary sittings except to retain the few seats it won in last Tuesday's [30 March] general election and will waive its rights to appoint senators unless an official enquiry is opened into election day irregularities.

The JLP, which had previously conceded that the PNP [People's National Party] would have won the election even if there had been no irregularities, is also demanding the dismissal or resignation of Director of Elections Noel Lee and Police Commissioner Roy Thompson.

"The sternest face, the strongest rebuke, the loudest voice of outrage this country can summon must be seen and heard across the world to make it abundantly clear that we will not allow Jamaica to be transformed into a Guyana-type electoral system or to be reverted to the electoral system which failed us in the 1970's," JLP leader Edward Seaga told journalists late Monday in explaining his party's position.

But in a speedy response, the People's National Party suggested that Seaga and the JLP were being sore losers.

"Mr. Seaga has once again revealed his clear lack of patriotic commitment and is seeking to create lame excuses to explain a way for his failure as a political leader," said PNP general secretary, Dr. Peter Phillips. The PNP conceded that there was need to strengthen the electoral system and eliminate administrative deficiencies, but noted that Prime Minister Percival Patterson had already committed the government to drastically improving the system.

"Mr. Seaga's announced boycott of parliament is therefore nothing more than the rantings of a failed leader who, once again, is demonstrating his willingness to sacrifice the national interests in order to save his own ego," the PNP statement said.

Seaga, for his part, pointed to a "wide range of transgressions" which he said would support the JLP's claim that last week's polls were the most fraudulent ever. He proposed a computerised system estimated to cost about U.S. 20 million dollars. The party says this system would eliminate bogus voting and is superior to a plan outlined by the prime minister last Saturday. The JLP is also demanding the scrapping of the Police Services Commission, to be replaced by a new commission that is selected impartially and which has wider powers of administration and decision-making. The JLP wants the minister of national security to have no control over the police except in matters of policy.

Regarding its demand for the director of elections and the police commissioner to lose their jobs, Seaga said that because of the transgressions surrounding the elections, the party had no confidence in either. He said his party was aware that its demands were far-reaching, but said the JLP was determined that Jamaica should avoid the situation where one party could "perpetuate itself" indefinitely as he claimed had happened in Guyana in the past.

Despite its reduced numbers in parliament and its decision to boycott most sittings, the JLP would be vocal and strong in opposition, Seaga said.

The electoral office up to late Monday had declared winners in 51 of the 60 constituencies. The People's National Party (PNP) had won in 47 constituencies and the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) in four. Expert projections are that the PNP will win at least 50 seats and possibly 53.

Trinidad and Tobago

Bilateral Air Service Agreement Being Negotiated With Venezuela

FL0604173293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1609
GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 5. CANA—Trinidad and Tobago and its nearby South American neighbour, Venezuela, are negotiating a bilateral air service agreement, a government spokesman here said on Monday [5 April].

Trinidad and Tobago's industry minister, Brian Kuei Tung, said the agreement, when concluded, will allow the airlines of the countries to fly into each other's territories. He said although Venezuela's airline, Aeropostal, flies into Port of Spain; and Trinidad and Tobago's airline, BWIA, has flown to Caracas, these were done under ad hoc agreements.

"So what we're trying to do now is to have a formal agreement," Kuei Tung told CANA.

7 April 1993

Soldiers Seize Firearms in Michoacan Drug Operation

PA0704033693 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Report by Eliceo Caballero Ramirez]

[Text] Mexican soldiers seized more than 500 different caliber firearms during regional Operation 1-93 in Michoacan. The operation, which lasted 20 days and ended on 4 April, was designed to combat drug crops and to implement the federal firearms and explosives law. Division General Antonio Riviello Bazan, national defense secretary, ordered that Operation 1-93 be implemented nationwide.

The soldiers seized the weapons in 10 areas in Michoacan. The weapons included seven or eight AK-47 and AR-15 type rifles, machine guns, and light rifles. The soldiers also seized 302 small arms, including two very modern Israeli .44- and .45-caliber pistols.

Military officials reported the results of Operation 1-93 in Michoacan during a ceremony to incinerate drugs in Tacamparo. Officials reported that 237 weapons had been seized and 21 alleged criminals had been arrested during the operation. It was also reported that among the latter were two members of the infamous 30 Gang [Gavilla de los 30], responsible, among other crimes, for the bloody escape from Tacambaro penitentiary.

Costa Rica

Government To Support Only Regional Economic Unification

PA0604212593 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
31 Mar 93 p4

[Report by Angela Orozco]

[Excerpt] In its 30 March session, the Government Council decided that Costa Rica will only support regional unification in the economic field but is definitely opposed to political integration.

The decision was made after discussing for several hours an agreement signed between Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador on 23 March, which will permit free traffic of persons, vehicles, and merchandise effective 1 April.

The tripartite agreement also includes the free entrance of agricultural products and the elimination, effective in July, of customs controls from one country to another.

During the past weekend, within the framework of Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro's official visit to El Salvador, Nicaragua announced its adherence to the agreements previously signed by the three countries.

In view of the effects of those measures, President Rafael Angel Calderon asked Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Roberto Rojas to travel to Guatemala to explain Costa Rica's position and learn more about the scope of the agreements.

Presidency Minister Rolando Lacle said the government respects the agreements of sovereign nations "and does not interpret those agreements as a mechanism to pressure Costa Rica." [passage omitted]

Niehaus Says Extradition of Nicaraguan Embassy Occupier 'Closed Case'

PA0604202393 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100
GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The extradition of Nicaraguan Embassy occupier Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, who was given asylum in the Dominican Republic, is a closed case for the Costa Rican Government, according to Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus.

Rejecting accusations that the government did not take prompt action to request the extradition, Niehaus said there was a delay because there was no one at the Dominican Embassy who could certify the extradition documents. Niehaus said that a request had been made for the Dominican authorities to place Urbina Lara under preventive arrest, but once asylum was granted the request for extradition was annulled according to international law.

In view of the possibility of extraditing embassy occupier Jose Manuel Urbina Lara by requesting the application

of the Bustamante Code, the only course that remains is to file a international terrorism lawsuit in the Dominican courts, according to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus. The decision has not been made yet, but the Costa Rican Government could take that option even though it would be costly because it involves opening criminal proceedings in that Caribbean country.

Jose Urbina Lara occupied the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose for 14 days while heading an armed commando unit that took \$250,000 as ransom following prolonged negotiations.

Cuban Defectors Report Human Rights Violations, 'Regime of Terror'

PA0704005693 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
31 Mar 93 p 23a

[Report by Daniel Brenes]

[Text] The four Cubans who defected from Havana's Great Theater entourage held a 30 March news conference and reported human rights violations and a regime of terror in Cuba. The Cubans had come to Costa Rica to participate in the Second International Art Festival.

The Cubans—two singers, a violinist, and an audio engineer—said that although the four worked together and are friends—none knew of the others' intention to request asylum.

Singer Omar Gonzalez Valdez—the last to defect—did not want information on his defection published until 29 March. He stated that although some progress has been made in Cuba, "the people have had to sacrifice too much compared to what has been gained."

Asked how many of Havana's Great Theater members, who have since returned to Cuba, would have liked to remain in Costa Rica, Gonzalez Valdez agreed with singer Xiomara Gonzalez. He said that "those who do not defect do so because they have children or a spouse and do not want to abandon them. Another reason is pure romanticism—they know that if they leave Cuba there is no way they can return."

First violinist Fidel Orestes Garcia, who announced his intention to request political asylum on 28 March, avoided answering the question on the possibilities of success for a young Costa Rican, from a poor family, who dreams of becoming a first rate violinist.

Orestes Renzoli Hernandez, a sound engineer, requested political asylum on 29 March. Renzoli Hernandez was a Cuban Communist Party member for several years. He agreed with singer Xiomara Gonzalez that things have reached such a point "that in Cuba not even Fidel, but terror rules."

Manuel Alejandro Rodriguez, a Cuban Human Rights Committee activist, reported having been attacked by two Cubans. Rodriguez—the contact person for singer Renzoli Hernandez to leave Havana's Great Theater—

said that after helping Hernandez move his belongings from the hotel where the group were staying, he was approached by two group members who punched and kicked him. The anti-Castro man also reported that the Costa Rican Culture Ministry is used by the Fidel Castro government for activities such as the recently held festival.

Foreign Trade Minister Says PRC Market 'Promising' for Exports

PA0704013993 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Report by William Cespedes]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Trade Minister Roberto Rojas Lopez believes the PRC market is very big and promising for Costa Rican exports, especially at a time when the coffee crisis is strongly hurting our country's economy. He said that Costa Rica does not need to establish diplomatic relations with the PRC before determining what products Costa Rica can export and what it could import at lower prices.

[Begin recording] [Rojas] This market is very promising. It is so promising that we could not afford not to have trade relations with the most populous country in the world. The PRC is experiencing high economic growth. This leads us to believe that it will soon become the most important consumer of such products as coffee and bananas.

[Unidentified reporter] What actions have been taken?

[Rojas] Our foreign minister and our president have said that it is not necessary to establish diplomatic relations with a country to trade. We trade with all countries, including Cuba. We do not discriminate. We believe that diplomatic relations are not a requirement. Trade relations can be enhanced through an exchange of information, which we are planning. To establish trade relations we want more information on what the PRC market needs so that we can sell our products. We can also buy from them because some PRC products are cheap and we can take advantage of that opportunity.

[Reporter] What products, for example?

[Rojas] They have all kinds of manufactured goods. Most manufactured goods that were being produced by the Asian tigers—in Hong Kong, for example, where labor is costly—are now being produced in the PRC. All these products will compete with any products we may buy in Asia—products from Japan, ROK, Singapore, and Hong Kong for example. Such products are now being manufactured in the PRC due to cheap labor. We need to buy as cheaply as possible to achieve a greater trade advantage so that consumers can enjoy price reductions on goods coming from more competitive countries. [end recording]

The government insists there is no interest in establishing diplomatic relations with the PRC and that the excellent trade, diplomatic, and cooperative relations that have existed throughout the years with Taiwan will be maintained.

El Salvador

Cristiani on U.S. Investigation Into Reagan, Bush Administration 'Cover-Up'

PA0604212693 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The Salvadoran Government is waiting for the results of an investigation initiated by the U.S. State Department into the possibility of a cover-up by Reagan and Bush administration officials who knew of human rights abuses committed in El Salvador.

Any government has a right to investigate the manner in which its public officials have operated. We respect the U.S. decision to conduct an investigation, said Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani. In Washington, it was learned that on the week of 29 March several documents containing information about allegedly secret events in El Salvador had been published.

Lawyer for FMLN Members Accused of Murder of U.S. Advisers To Seek Amnesty

PA0604162493 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Lawyer Omar Pastor, defense attorney for the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] members charged with the murder of U.S. advisers, said he will present a plea for amnesty for his clients, who are still serving time in Mariona Prison.

The FMLN members are accused of murdering three U.S. military advisers at the beginning of 1991 when they downed the foreigners' helicopter. Their future is now a dilemma: Some say they cannot be released from jail or they cannot be granted amnesty because the victims enjoyed diplomatic status. Dr. Pastor, however, rejects this position by arguing all Salvadorans should be treated with legal equality.

[Begin Pastor recording] The principle of constitutional equality is being violated. This is a principle that is part of the Constitution and says that the law must be enforced equally to everyone, not just to some people. In this particular case perverse logic is being used—it cannot be called anything else—to say that the helicopter case cannot benefit from the amnesty law. [end recording]

The agreement states that all those who violate the human rights of any foreigner with diplomatic status cannot be granted amnesty. According to Pastor, this is not the case with the U.S. advisers, killed three years ago in Lolotique, San Miguel.

[Begin Pastor recording] The advisers flying the U.S. helicopter were military chiefs who were accredited in Palmerola, Honduras. Therefore, they were not accredited in El Salvador. They came to El Salvador to say good-bye, as stated in the official record. The fact that they may have previously served in El Salvador has nothing to do with the case. It is not true that at the time of the helicopter downing they were accredited in El Salvador, much less as diplomats. [end recording]

These are the arguments the defense attorney will use to request that amnesty be granted to his clients. The petition will be presented to the Chinameca judge, who is in charge of the case.

FMLN To Fulfill Recommendations of Truth Commission If Government Does

PA0604233593 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front asserts that it will fulfill the recommendations of the Truth Commission that investigated war crimes perpetrated over the past 12 years only if the government does the same.

Jorge Shafik Handal, general coordinator of the former guerrilla organization, said that if everyone involved does not fulfill the recommendations, there will be no end to the impunity. He added that his party's position has already been conveyed to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Archbishop Expects Amnesty for Zona Rosa Accused

PA0704044293 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 5 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] San Salvador Archbishop Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas says he expects that the amnesty, which has already shown its first results with the release of several military officers, will also be applied in a general manner, including to the persons accused in the Zona Rosa and Lolotique cases.

After receiving a letter sent by relatives of the accused involved in both cases, the monsignor said that "the measure must be equal for all." In the letter, the prisoners' relatives call on the archbishop to intervene to obtain their release.

"Reconciliation must be total," the church official said after announcing that he will study the cases to determine if his intervention is warranted.

According to the Catholic Church high official, even if the amnesty law were applied, there must also be true reconciliation, an acknowledgement of having done wrong, and willingness to amend because the peace of Christ is important to securing social peace.

William Celo Rivas Bolanos and Juan Antonio Morales Lucero have been in prison since 1987 and 1988, respectively. Both men were accused of being responsible for the Zona Rosa incidents that took place on 19 June 1985 and resulted in the death of 13 persons, including four U.S. Marines. The relatives of both men are calling for the application of the Amnesty Law so that reconciliation is equitable for all sectors.

Delmi Recinos, the girlfriend of Celo Rivas, emphasizes that the process is completely unfair since the 25 year sentence that was handed down was based on illegal statements.

According to Recinos, it is illogical to release those military officers whose responsibility in serious human rights violations was clearly substantiated by the Truth Commission report and then purport to leave others in prison, such as the ones responsible for the Zona Rosa events, who were never mentioned in the report.

Sofia Alas, wife of Antonio Morales, whose trial date has not yet been set but who is in prison and is not expected to benefit from the Amnesty Law, said: "Reconciliation must be complete, and amnesty must be applied to everyone."

Release petitions are also being drawn up by relatives of former guerrillas Seberiano Fuentes and German Hernandez, responsible for the deaths of two Americans after their helicopter was downed near Lolotique in San Miguel.

Correction to Military Court Denies Amnesty to Man of Red Zone Murders

WA0704152793

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Military Court Denies Amnesty to Man Sentenced for Red Zone Murders" published in the 5 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 18: Column two please make headline read: Military Court Denies Amnesty to Man of Zona Rosa Murders (correcting headline) Column two, paragraph one, sentence one to sentence two make read: ...sentence for the Zona Rosa murders. The court... (correcting place-name) Column two, paragraph two, sentence two to sentence three make read: ...international treaties. The Zona Rosa massacre occurred in... (correcting place-name)

Narcotics Division Seizes Aircraft Loaded With Cocaine

PA0704041293 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Report by Raul Beltran Bonilla]

[Text] The National Police Executive Narcotics Division [UEA] dealt a new blow against drug trafficking on the morning of 6 April when it seized a small aircraft loaded with cocaine at the port of La Libertad, San Diego sector. One of the traffickers died, and the others, Colombian

citizens, were arrested upon landing at El Pulido, between Canton Los Melara and San Diego.

UEA Executive Director Captain Pena Duran said the Salvadoran coast is being used by drug traffickers. Clandestine landing strips built along cane fields or the coastal highway are being used by drug traffickers, particularly from Colombia.

The UEA prepared the operation following an investigation based on reports from people living in the area. According to UEA members participating in the operation, a small airplane—specifically a one-engine Centurion with Colombian license number YSC-04—landed with 400 kg of cocaine. The pilot or pilots tried to turn around and take off but UEA members immediately opened fire on the aircraft. A Colombian waiting at the strip tried to board the airplane when he heard shots, but was cut in half by the propeller.

Blood was found inside the Centurion airplane, meaning that the pilot and copilot were also injured. UEA officials who provided this information confirmed that the dead man's body was taken to the Santa Tecla hospital morgue. The two injured Colombians were taken to Rosales Hospital. A hangar measuring 30 meters by 15 meters has been carefully inspected by UEA members. The 400 kg of cocaine were transferred to the UEA facilities in San Salvador.

Guatemala

Chamber of Agriculture Rejects U.S. Accusations of Protectionism

PA0604191293 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Apr 93 p 52

[Text] The Chamber of Agriculture on 2 April emphatically rejected U.S. accusations that Guatemala maintains excessive commercial protectionism. The Guatemalan Chamber of Commerce, CCG, however, said U.S. authorities are correct, adding that "the situation endangers the country and causes problems for consumers."

Chamber of Agriculture President Luis Reyes Mayen said the U.S. Commerce Department's understanding of the situation is inexact. He said the country has updated its customs requirements and duties are low.

"The United States cannot say we are a protectionist country. On the contrary, we have one of the most open economies in the world as a result of a modernization process that has distorted national production, which must face international competition," Reyes stressed.

Reyes accused the United States of adopting protectionist measures and discriminating in favor of some countries and against others such as Guatemala.

He added that the United States takes advantage of international humanitarian feelings and promotes

debates on subjects like human and labor rights and copyright laws, using those issues as pretexts to protect its economy.

"The protectionism imposed by U.S. authorities on world trade in the agricultural field, particularly on small countries like ours, is notorious," Reyes Mayen noted.

He said developing countries "are being used by the United States to convey a message to the EC and Japan about a commercial war." He added that he hopes that war will permit fair trade without unjust protectionism and dumping on our nations.

"We have more reasons to protest than the United States does as far as trade relations go. We believed in the opening of world trade and have had to face harsh measures implemented by developing countries," Reyes stressed.

The CCG said it is true that the government has maintained an economic protectionism policy for many years.

Although import taxes have been reduced to no more than 30 percent, they must be further reduced so Guatemalan consumers can really benefit from trade liberalization," the CCG said.

The CCG added that "there are various products that in addition to high duties face barriers that contravene international free trade agreements signed by Guatemala. Those barriers include government regulations that in one way or another limit or even prohibit the import of basic products such as corn, fruits, wheat, flour, poultry, and so forth.

"The fact that our country is included on a black list of nations that violate international free trade agreements is worrisome, particularly because authorities in charge of Guatemala's foreign trade are already violating the recently ratified GATT treaty," the CCG noted.

The CCG also said that there are still various government regulations in Guatemala that violate international trade agreements. As examples, they mentioned Decree 1490 limiting the import of wheat and flour, Decree Law 1-83 limiting fruit imports, and Governmental Agreement 76-83 and the Public Finances Ministerial Agreement limiting poultry exports.

Civilian Self-Defense Patrols Commemorate 10th Anniversary

PA0604221293 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Apr 93 p 8

[Excerpt] Numerous members of the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols [CVDC] met in Comalapa, Chimaltenango Department, on 4 April to commemorate the 10th anniversary of their founding. During the meeting, they rejected the conditions set forth by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] and said they "would remain active as long as there is internal strife."

During the event, which was held in the presence of civilian and military authorities, patrol members displayed placards in support of the peace process.

The patrol members showed up at the central plaza early in the morning, marching to the tunes of a civilian band. They formed a compact group in front of the platform where the ceremony was to be held.

Shouldering old rifles provided by the Army, patrol members stood at attention beside the national flag, which they regard as sacred, showing their respect for their nation.

While the event was held, activity at the nearby market was normal and the noise of commerce mixed with the notes of the music.

CVDC President Juan Morales said: "We have organized voluntarily to assist the Army because we are sick and tired of the guerrilla actions that have caused so much damage in the region."

He said that at no time have they been manipulated by the Armed Forces. Their own needs forced them to protect themselves from the strange groups that have been raiding their communities.

Morales rejected the guerrillas' demands to disband the CVDC and reduce the Army as prerequisites to sign a cease-fire and later a peace agreement.

He underlined that Guatemala's internal conflict must be solved by Guatemalans rather than by foreigners. We are entitled to remain active and will not disband the patrols just because the URNG has so demanded. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

PSD Issues Communique Supporting LA PRENSA Director

PA0604171393 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Communique issued by the Social Democratic Party National Executive Committee in Managua; date not given]

[Text] In view of the disparaging campaign by the Sandinist media against Social Democratic Party, PSD, member Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, assistant director of LA PRENSA newspaper, the Social Democratic Party issues the following communique for the national and international public:

1. Since Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios took the post as LA PRENSA's assistant director, the newspaper made a noticeable turn toward democracy and administrative openness.

2. Chamorro Barrios made it possible for LA PRENSA to retake its historic role as a bastion to fight corruption

in any of its forms, while other printed media fully identified themselves with the activities of the Lacayo-Ortega cogovernment, applauding and backing all the despotic and unconstitutional acts of this cogovernment.

3. Marxism and Sandinism, which are entrenched in power, are using its old strategy of running down people who oppose them in an attempt to diminish the credibility of multiple reports of vandalism committed by Sandinists against the Nicaraguan people and nation and by attempting to tarnish the image of Pedro Chamorro Barrios.

4. In view of this, the PSD, denounces before the conscience of honest men and free people, the cheap and defamatory campaign orchestrated by Sandinist elements against Chamorro Barrios, which we strongly reject. We stand by our member because the PSD struggles for democracy, economic development, social justice, and liberty.

[Signed] PSD National Executive Council

Panama

Government Decides Not To Rejoin Rio Group

PA0704005793 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The Panamanian Government has decided not to rejoin the Rio Group because of the conditions the organization has established for the return of a country that, until 1988, had a right to vote in that organization. On 6 April Foreign Minister Julio Linares reported the details surrounding this issue.

[Begin Linares recording] The Republic of Panama takes a positive view of the Rio Group foreign ministers' acceptance of the establishment and enforcement of democracy in Panama and their agreement to allow Panama's renewed membership in the Rio Group, although under conditions established earlier.

The Republic of Panama, at the time of its suspension in February 1988, enjoyed the status of individual and full member of the Group of Eight or Rio Group, as it is called. Consequently, Panama's return to this group would be acceptable only under the same conditions it enjoyed prior to its separation.

Moreover, the Republic of Panama believes that the principle of legal equality of states is the cornerstone of the international community's foundation and that it would be contrary to this principle to participate in an international forum with a status level lower than that of other states.

It is evident that as a political forum the Rio Group plays an active role, but this does not mean that Panama must rejoin this forum at the expense of its national dignity. We will join any forum as long as we are allowed to enter through the front door. [end recording]

CIA Said Training Agents in Intelligence Activities 'Snooping'*PA0604175693 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish
2 Apr 93 p 2*

[Text] The CIA has been training Public Security and National Defense Council agents in snooping and intelligence activities. Several courses have already been given in this Council's Amador office. The training that the new G-2 [intelligence] agents of this "democracy" receive includes wiretapping the telephones of politicians, labor union people, former soldiers, and those of Public Force personnel, priests, journalists, and any other person critical of the political, economic, and social disaster the people are enduring. We have been informed that these agents are being trained to follow people, to infiltrate groups, to open correspondence, etc.

This snooping council is headed by economist Jose Menalco Solis, a partner of the president. Solis has rapidly learned the lessons the CIA agents in our country have been teaching.

We have been told that the starting salary the new rats of the Presidency, as they are known, receive for their despicable work against the Panamanian people is 400 balboas per month, a salary that can be quickly raised depending on the nature of the snooping.

Below please see, so that the Panamanian people and all other people affected by the illegal activities being carried out by those agents may better assess what we are reporting, a copy of a diploma issued to persons who complete one of the CIA courses. The diploma is signed by an agent whose last name is Eisenhower, by agent Ricardo Madrid, and by another person whose name is illegible. Our readers may also notice the seal of the Executive Secretariat of the Public Security and National Defense Council, the name of this somber organization. Our readers will notice that EL SIGLO reports the truth.

Kuna Indians Protest Authorization of U.S. Maneuvers on Colombian Border*PA0604213193 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
6 Apr 93 p 8A*

[Report by Rogelio Alba]

[Text] Arquia-Kuna—Anibal Padiila Perez and Federico Achan, main chieftains of Arquia and Caiman Nuevo, respectively, have voiced their disagreement with the government's decision to authorize military maneuvers on Tacarcuna Hill, near the Indian town of Pucuro, on the border with Colombia.

Padilla and Achan are the highest representatives of the Indian communities located on the Gulf of Uraba, Colombia.

The main chieftains of Colombia's Kuna Indians are concerned because the Panamanian Government has

authorized what they see as an invasion by the U.S. Army South in the jungle of Darien Province, particularly at Tacarcuna Hill.

In a letter addressed to Endara, the chieftains stated: "We understand that this powerful Army will use far reaching explosives and bombs, which will affect in general the Indian population living near the border."

Colombian Kuna Indians reported that as residents of the border area they are unhappy and reject these maneuvers because as far back as they can remember their forefathers considered this place sacred. This tradition, they continued, has been passed on to them from generation to generation by witch doctors.

The Indians said that this invasion is an offense against local culture and traditions and will prevent land communications with other Indian communities, such as Paya and Pucuro, located in Pinogana District, Darien Province.

The chieftains asked President Guillermo Endara to consider and ponder their request and to make a decision that does not affect the residents of the Indian communities near the Panamanian-Colombian border.

According to Kuna historians, Spanish invaders expelled the Indians of Arquia and Caiman Nuevo from their land for fear of being annihilated. In their escape, the Indians moved to the Colombian border. Others traveled as far as the Kuna-Yala San Blas Islands, but they all speak the same language.

It was reported that three Public Force unit members from the Puerto Obaldia Garrison were arrested for alleged undisciplined acts while guarding a border checkpoint with Colombia.

According to the source, the policemen arrested are Rolando Jaramillo, Jose Hernandez, and Felipe Cozarelli, who were caught drinking alcohol at 1400 on 29 March while they were on duty.

It was reported that the policemen were arrested and their weapons were taken from them. The source concluded that this measure was taken because of the seriousness of the offense, as these men work in a conflict-ridden area and it is necessary that they be alert.

Presidential Commission To Manage Canal Administration*PA0604214593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
6 Apr 93 p 1a*

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara on 5 April substituted Decree No. 180 of 1991, which created the Panama Canal Ad Hoc Commission, and decided to raise this organization to the rank of presidential commission to get the most from the canal and ensure that it receive the best administration.

Under Cabinet Decree No. 32 of 5 April 1993, Endara believed it best to substitute the decree dealing with the ad hoc commission, which since 1991 had been studying and giving advice to the government to prepare the draft law on the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) to convert it to the Presidential Commission for Panama Canal Affairs [Comision Presidencial para Asuntos del Canal de Panama].

According to the decree, this presidential commission will have, among other obligations, to draft constitutional reform proposals and the internal law for the organization that will administer the canal.

Endara also said that the new commission will make recommendations to the government on the reforms that should be made over the next few years as part of the current Canal Commission administrative scheme to ease the transition from an agency under the U.S. Government to a Panamanian Government agency.

Decree No. 32 also appoints as members of the Presidential Commission for Panama Canal Affairs Joaquin J. Vallarino, who will head the commission; Juan Cristobal Zuniga; Diogenes de la Rosa; Roberto Brenes; Luis Eduardo Guisado; Guillermo Elias Quijano; Jorge Riba; Olimpo Saez; and Carlos Arellano Lennox.

Endara converted the former ad hoc commission's working subcommissions into a Presidential Commission Support Group.

Christian Democratic Party Condemns Attack Against Legislator

PA0604223993 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Apr 93 p A2

[Communique issued by the Christian Democratic Party, PDC; place and date not given]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] condemns the terrorist attack directed against its legislator Alfredo

Ehlers, his family, and his neighborhood. This attack occurred one day after Ehlers had participated in a radio program during which he expressed the PDC's position against the general amnesty bill proposed by the PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party], defended on the same program by PRD Legislator Miguel Bush.

On 1 April, the PDC bloc stated that the PRD and its bullies attempted "to impose the second debate discussion of the general amnesty bill proposal by using violence, duress, and threats." This climate of violence, duress, and threats is what has led to the terrorist attack against our legislator, which we are condemning.

The PDC fearlessly opposed the dictatorship to claim justice and will undauntedly continue to oppose those advocates of the dictatorship until justice is done. Thus:

1. We reject the general amnesty that favors murderers, torturers, thieves, and human rights violators.
2. We demand from the Attorney General's Office and the Judicial Branch, in those cases where it is relevant, to speed up the appropriate procedures that will lead to the rapid and definite conclusion of judicial processes.
3. We support the National Movement for Justice in Panama, organized by the relatives of the principal victims of the dictatorship.

[Signed] Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, president.

Gloria Moreno de Lopez, vice president.

Camilo Brenes, secretary general.

Raul Ossa, vice president.

Ivan Romero, vice president.

Argentina

Army Commander: 'No Proof' Soldiers Executed in Falklands

PY0704030093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1554 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 6 Apr (NA)—The Army chief of staff, General Martin Balza, stated that he has no proof Argentine soldiers were executed during the Malvinas war.

He said he learned about this rumor through statements by former British combatant Vincent Bradley in his book "Journey to Hell."

In remarks to the local newspaper NUEVA PROVINCIA, Balza said: "I have no proof."

Balza described Bradley's statements that "U.S. mercenaries enrolled in the Argentine forces" as "a huge offense."

He stated that "the five integrated Argentine branches" are "achieving a great joint task," and added that the lack of coordination "was the major shortcoming in the Malvinas war."

Commenting on the new world order, Balza said each country "has to be subject to its own need" because this situation promotes "major participation by countries in the UN's special peacekeeping forces."

He rejected rumors that "Chilean helicopters reportedly overflowed the Laguna de Desierto area in January." The two countries are involved in a controversy over the region's sovereignty.

Balza also said the money "obtained from the sale of the Army's assets will be earmarked for the Army's patrimony to invest it exclusively in military goods, including the construction of houses for personnel of various units across the country."

Defense Minister Installs Secretaries, Under Secretaries

PY0604221493 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1421 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (TELAM)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion today administered the appropriate oaths of office to Military Affairs Secretary Vicente Gonzalo Massot and Planning Secretary Guillermo Federico Etchehourri.

The ceremony was held on the Defense Ministry's first floor at 1015 today. During the ceremony, Camilion installed Institutional Affairs Under Secretary Eduardo Lorenzo De Simone, Privatizations Under Secretary Horacio Rodriguez Larreta, and Budget and Administration Under Secretary Rene Emilio De Paul.

Camilion also confirmed in their posts Ana Sirchuk de Kessler, the under secretary for reorganization and property operations, and retired General Mario Antonio Remetin, the under secretary for scientific and technological research.

Ricardo Lagorio, the Defense Ministry chief of staff, also was installed in his post. The ceremony was attended by outgoing Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez and other civilian and military authorities.

'Substitute' Legislators Pick Senators in Catamarca

PY0604221693 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 6 Apr 93 p 13

[Text] (DYN)—The Saadi family jumped the gun on the legislative assembly scheduled for April 15 and held its own yesterday, appointing current Senator Alicia Saadi de Dentone to fill the seat vacated by outgoing legislator Julio Amoedo and Atanasio Carrizo to replace Saadi de Dentone.

In order to reach a quorum, the Saadi followers used substitute legislators elected in 1991 and the session was headed by Adolfo Giordani, who is supposedly under house arrest—the provincial government therefore declared last night's session null and void.

The non-Saadi parties have repeatedly held sessions with quorum between December 2 and April but have failed to agree on a candidate.

At press time last night around 100 policemen surrounded a plane boarded by Giordani and other pro-Saadi legislators after the controversial vote and arrested the Senate leader.

Subway, Airline Strikes Jam Buenos Aires

PY0604221893 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 6 Apr 93 p 1

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—Hundreds of thousands of commuters were stranded yesterday by transportation strikes affecting the city's subways and Austral airlines, as well as an electrical failure which halted trains on the Mitre railway line.

Traffic neared gridlock in Buenos Aires as buses packed with subway and train commuters made slow progress through city streets ridden with public utility repair work. Several street lights were also out of order, due to last weekend's storm, adding to the chaos.

The Austral strike delayed flight departures and arrivals at the Jorge Newbery metropolitan airport and the situation only looked to worsen over Easter break, as cabin staff threatened to strike in the sister air carrier Aerolineas. Railway signalmen also announced plans to grind trains to a halt as of Thursday due to the lack of a labour settlement with management.

In a bid to restore order the Labour Ministry yesterday evening declared the subway walkouts illegal, meaning

that strikers could be dismissed from the company and their union stripped of its legal status.

The workers had stepped up partial stoppages on the city's five railway lines to demand a 30 percent wage increase and the payment of salary arrears. [passage omitted]

* Menem's Reelection Plan, Strategy Outlined

93SM0188B Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish No 855
15 Feb 93 pp 4-7

[Report by Luis Majul: "Return of the Living Dead"]

[Text] The government's anxiety about getting Menem reelected is unleashing storms and resuscitating undesirable creatures. In recent days there have appeared attached to the image of the administration some persons who are out of the political limelight, people who are no longer tracked by any poll. Names that are symbols of backwardness, inefficiency, nepotism, and decadence.

One by One

Julio Mera Figueroa is a noted politician and a good friend to his friends, but he left the government with a reputation as a not very efficient minister of the interior. This same Mera is now appearing as the partisan captain of the ship that is to reach the shores of reelection.

The secretary general of the devalued Metalworkers Union, Lorenzo Mariano "Loro" Miguel, still lives in the same neighborhood where he was born, but few Argentines are more tied to the past than he is, to the old give-and-take, and a phase of violence. This is the same Miguel who suddenly appeared in newspaper headlines and who signed an appeal along with Saul Ubaldini, a unionist who has to work hard to muster any support from his own union, the brewers. This is the man who will pilot the negotiations with the government. He is the one who will ask for higher wages, a reconsideration of the social benefits bill, and candidacies for national deputies in all the Menemist slates of the country...in exchange for supporting Menem's candidacy in 1995.

Senator Alicia Saadi is a woman with good manners and exceptional relations with her peers, but her name is irretrievably linked to the crime of Maria Soledad Morales and the fall of her brother, Ramon Saadi, from the Catamarca government. This is the woman who appeared in Switzerland at the side of the president.

The former president's widow, Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, is older now, almost harmless, and she no longer generates hatred, not even among the most hardcore anti-Peronists; Isabel is out of the government and has no power. But this is the woman who has just announced her support for Menem's continuation in office, after the administration paid for her stay at the Caesar's Palace

Hotel, one of the most expensive in the country, with the SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] financing the costs with its reserve funds.

Master Plan

A very intelligent secretary of state—the official most involved in the Menem 1995 project—explained to SOMOS that the hypothesis of the "Return of the Living Dead" as a desperate ploy to pull out all the stops to win reelection was quite unrealistic.

"I am sorry to disappoint you: there is no master plan. Those reappearances are just a matter of chance," he said after taking a sip of mineral water in the lobby of a hotel a block from the Casa Rosada.

He explained that Mera Figueroa did not come back to again take charge of the Interior Ministry but rather to help—with strict limitations—to campaign for the September elections. He added that Miguel's reappearance is not a problem for the government but rather for the unions. He said Ms. Saadi was in Switzerland with Menem because that had been arranged by the bloc of senators, and he said that Menem had photos taken with all of them, although he should not have done so. He also denied responsibility for the "Isabel affair."

The legal and technical secretary for the presidency, Carlos Corach, spoke of the issue in the following terms:

"We do not need to make deals with any of them to get a constitutional reform. The reform will go through because the people will demand its passage. No country has ever opposed keeping in office a president who put an end to years of decay and began a transformation. Margaret Thatcher in Great Britain, Francois Mitterrand in France, and Felipe Gonzalez in Spain are living examples of this golden rule."

Elections Today: If the presidential election were held today, whom would you like to be elected?

Did not know; did not answer	34.8%
Carlos Menem	18.3%
None of them: no one	12.3%
Fernando De la Rúa	9.6%
Eduardo Angeloz	6.8%
Aldo Rico	2.5%
Jose Octavio Bordon	1.8%
Raul Alfonsín	1.3%
Palito Ortega	1.0%
Others	9.0%

Source: Mora y Araujo, Noguero and Associates.

Self-Criticism

One of Menem's most important ministers agreed that this avalanche of figures from the past might be interpreted as an undesired effect of the frenzied search for

reelection. Speaking in his office on Calle Rivadavia, he told SOMOS: "This is happening because of the empty spaces that are generated with the campaign."

The minister said that for that very reason, among others, Eduardo Menem, Eduardo Bauza, and Gustavo Beliz have agreed to present the governors of Buenos Aires, Eduardo Duhalde; of Santa Fe, Carlos Reute-mann; of Tucuman, Ramon Palito Ortega; of Mendoza, Rodolfo Gabrielli; of Entre Rios, Mario Moine; of Misiones, Ramon Puerta; of La Pampa, Ruben Marin; and of San Luis, Adolfo Rodriguez Saa, as the stars of the reelection epic.

"They are popular, they have the votes, and they convey an image of federalism," he noted pragmatically.

The minister gave a categorical answer about the suspected pact among Miguel's followers and the members of Menem's cabinet:

"Menem is not going to make deals with the union leaders in any way. That is just not on for three reasons. First: it would automatically put public opinion against him. Second: it would create new enemies in the establishment, who fear the specter of the country being run by the unions. Third: it would fatally wound the Economic Plan and the Social Plan."

Minister of the Interior Gustavo Beliz reasoned as follows:

"Menem's reelection is not being pursued through a tradeoff. And certainly not for a deal involving changes in the economic course. It is naive to think that concessions will be made. If the government gives in, it will be left without a plan and also without reelection."

What Is at Stake

Mera Figueroa, among other responsibilities, reportedly has the job of bringing the Saadis on board the Menem 1995 program. Mera was the major disciple of Vicente Saadi, the father of Ramon and Alicia. And Menemism may need the Saadis' votes in Catamarca to bring in support and national deputies prepared to vote for reform and reelection.

Alicia Saadi gave SOMOS an idyllic vision of this scenario.

"There is no political reconciliation with Menem, for there was never a split. We do not need intermediaries to speak with him. This is my government and I have always supported the executive's initiatives. We will support reelection, by normalizing the PJ [Justicialist Party] in Catamarca, where it is now in trouble. Menem is our friend, and I think people should vote to give him another term."

Lorenzo Miguel's view is more complex.

"Loro" came back onto the scene because he was afraid the government might wrest unconditional support from

the entire union movement. That is: reelection with nothing in return. So Miguel has moved to the head of the critical Menemists, against the head of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor], Oscar Lescano, who came out of a meeting with Beliz and the minister of labor, Enrique Rodriguez, giving his support to Menem. Now the Club of Union Friends of the President—led by Jose Pedraza, Andres Rodriguez, and Gerardo Martinez—is gambling that Menem will break with Miguel and Lescano; they hope to be left with the best spots on the slates of candidates for national deputies.

One of Miguel's most lucid and loyal supporters, Naldo Brunelli, stated the situation in black and white:

"We have to get something before the September elections. The desire of the big boss to be reelected is one of the few things that we can still use to obtain anything." We have already told Lescano that: "The Grand Turk is going to use us and throw us away."

Brunelli added didactically: "The guys in the Club of Friends are somewhat naive. The same thing is going to happen that happened to (Jose Luis Barrionuevo,) the greatest philosopher of the workers' movement of all times. They are going to give everything away. And the big boss will make promises, but he will not give them anything."

Brunelli told SOMOS that no president has made decisions that so greatly weakened union power as Menem has. He recalled "the move against social benefits." He cited as most dangerous the decision to require wage discussions first by industry, afterwards by sector of activity, and finally by enterprise.

"The UOM [Metalworkers Union] has 17 establishments. The Cavalieri employees have 142,000. Taking away the union's ability to negotiate for all of them amounts to reducing the leaders to a merely decorative role," he charged.

The Best of All Possible Worlds

The ideal thing for Menem and his colleagues would be:

1. That Mera help with the campaign but not appear in the newspapers as running the reelection effort;
2. That the Club of Union Friends support reelection with no strings attached, or that Miguel and Ubaldini make their demands almost in secret;
3. That the Saadis help to get votes, but not appear in photographs with Menem;
4. And that Isabelita stay in Spain.

Menem gave his all to become president. It is naive to think that he will not do the same to stay in office.

Elections and Plebiscite

The government's strategy to keep Menem in the presidency in 1995 is ingenious, but its efficacy is doubtful.

Its mentors say it has three stages: search for consensus, creation of a parliamentary majority, and a call for a Constituent Assembly. They believe the first stage is now at its apogee. They cite polls. They say that 60 percent of the people are for reform. That 50 percent do not care whether the clause about presidential reelection is included. And that 30 percent would vote for Menem again. They add that many representatives of the establishment like Emilio Cardenas and Roberto Alemann favor reform now that they know that the dogmatic part of the Constitution will not be amended. They say that the "Act of 23" in Mar del Plata marked the start of a search for not a selective, but a massive consensus. They think that a parliamentary majority will be created with a plan. The plan is: to force through the Senate a pro-reform bill before the end of February; to leave the ball in the deputies' court, where the PJ does not have a majority by itself, and to use that time to put pressure—through polls and possibly a plebiscite—on the Radicals. The mentors say the Peronists will win the upcoming legislative elections with more votes than they got in 1991. And that the result will be like a plebiscite. The director of the New Majority's Studies Center, Rosendo Fraga, considers this unconvincing. He explains that in Argentina only presidents with an electoral base of 50 percent have been reelected: people like Julio Roca, Hipolito Irigoyen, and Juan Peron. He says the government will carry less than the 41 percent it won in 1991. Fraga suggests that making Menem's reelection the axis of the upcoming elections is a huge mistake.

"Menem for president has 43 percent of the voters' opinions in favor. But Menem's reelection gets only 33 percent. If the government holds a plebiscite for Menem in 1995, an election victory will be read as a defeat. But if it presents things as they are and wins—even if with 35 percent of the votes—it will be able to say that this is the only government in Argentine history that was able to win an election in its fourth year in office."

*** Alsogaray Deflects Criticism of Public Image**

93SM0188A Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish No 854
8 Feb 93 pp 4-8

[Interview with Environmental Secretary Maria Julia Alsogaray by correspondent Alejandro Sangenis in London, England; date not given; "Heading Downhill"]

[Text] The Argentine summer had been bothering her; the Steel Lady was apparently beginning to fall apart.

But paradoxically, it was the European winter that brought her temperature to the verge of boiling. Maria Julia Alsogaray, a woman who had held a variety of government jobs, the former manager of ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise], the former privatizer of the steel enterprise SOMISA [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association], liquidator of the residual ENTEL, secretary of natural resources and the human environment, a former UCD [Democratic Center

Union] deputy and a Menemist from the early days right after the PJ [Justicialist Party] victory, is in trouble.

Even though she does not think so.

The presidential party was still in Switzerland when reports came out about the first challenge to this lady of steel. PAGINA/12 published President Menem's question about her wearing fur coats, and then several newspapers commented that she was roaming aimlessly about in international ski resorts. In Buenos Aires, this report fed the rumor mill. Several officials—including two ministers—told SOMOS that Maria Julia's position in the government was "delicate." CLARIN and AMBITO FINANCIERO joined in the chorus of doubts. Her father, engineer Alvaro Alsogaray, was said to be "very concerned" about the stories. His daughter was on shaky ground. But she, in the meantime, seemed only interested in the snow.

The snowy landscapes of Davos, Switzerland—and some businessmen and officials in President Menem's official entourage—witnessed a new metamorphosis of Maria Julia. With a casual, almost naive air, the former iron lady of the UCD was spending time among these highly intelligent people from all over the world, and she could not enter the forum where they debated complicated economic equations. In any event, such a responsibility did not seem to be on her agenda.

Her behavior became almost adolescent.

The first snowball landed right in the face of the austere head of the SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence], "Mr. 5," Hugo Anzorreguy. The second struck the head of the balding former president of the Argentine Rural Society, Guillermo Alchouron. When the third rapidly sailed skyward, they all hastened to seek refuge in the elegant salons of the Steigenberger Belvedere Hotel.

Maria Julia stayed outside on the terrace, rolling new snowballs between the palms of her hands. In Davos, it was cold and over 50 centimeters of snow lay on the ground. In Buenos Aires, though, there was a scorching sun.

Photos

Considered an intelligent woman and a successful government official, the photographers' busy cameras have been Maria Julia Alsogaray's downfall. This time the rumors began when pictures of the snowballs were printed around the world.

But it is clear that Maria Julia's problems did not arise only from the photos. She has too many enemies in the government bureaucracy. The latest round, after talk about her possible ouster, was an episode with aspects of a detective story; in the press room of the Casa Rosada (a place to which only government officials and reporters have access) there appeared a strange envelope, anonymous, addressed to all the press correspondents.

Its contents were even stranger. Maria Julia was not named, but it accused her deputy, the Peronist undersecretary of the human environment, Hector "Chiquito" Dalmau, of collecting double pay—both his retirement as a deputy and salary for his position as undersecretary—and it was accompanied by photocopies of his alleged paycheck stubs.

The report, written in a manner dangerously reminiscent of the style used by the intelligence services in the past—was obviously faked, and no one attributed any importance to it.

But it was an attempt to strike indirectly at Ms. Alsogaray.

In reality, some of her friends had already warned her:

"Julita, do not go to Switzerland. They are going to tear you apart," one of her closest colleagues in the Department of the Environment told her.

Sometime earlier, a former minister and an ex-secretary of state, both with personal contacts with Ms. Alsogaray—had said to SOMOS in an informal chat, on the same day that Jose Luis Manzano resigned: "Pay close attention. The next one is Maria Julia. They are going to crucify her."

Rumors and Polls

Among all the rumors making the rounds when the cabinet shakeup took place, many concerned Maria Julia. It was said that the flood would sweep her away too. And that no high-level official would vouch for her chances for survival.

But the tide did not sweep her away.

A little later, in December, Carlos Menem himself raised the price of her stock when he asked her to take charge of cleaning out Riachuelo before 1995. But it was also the president who trimmed her powers by bringing CEAMSE [State Ecological Coordinating Group of the Metropolitan Area] into that job as well. The job was big enough for everyone.

Maria Julia never concealed her aspirations to use her environmental position to influence CEAMSE. It is said that that organization—a joint company made up of both the city and province of Buenos Aires—responds directly to Governor Eduardo Duhalde, and that both Minister Cavallo and Secretary General of the Presidency Eduardo Bauza are keeping a close watch on the situation.

The dispute among environmental factions involved not only overlapping functions in the Riachuelo issue. Maria Julia was in Great Britain, where she flew in a private plane belonging to Waste Management Inc. to visit its waste treatment plants. WMI is a partner of Sideco in a project to build a hazardous wastes treatment plant in Argentina, after winning a bid from CEAMSE.

But the power struggles do not tell the whole story. There are also objective data. For example, a telephone poll conducted by Javier Otaegui for Mariano Grondona's "Hora Clave" ["Key Hour"] program reveals that 80.7 percent of those polled think Maria Julia should resign.

And according to the averaged results of surveys conducted by Rosendo Fraga's Union for the New Majority Studies Center, Ms. Alsogaray's image went into a free fall during 1992. From a negative rating of 45 percent in 1989, her negative rating climbed to 61.1 percent, and on the other side, her positive rating dropped from 30.9 to 14.7 percent.

Maria Julia Speaks Out

The first indication of Maria Julia's decline in the Menemist sky was given by the president in Switzerland with a joke that seemed merely ingenuous:

"Julita," he said, "is that coat made of real fur?"

"Of course it is!" she answered. "How can I use synthetic furs?"

"Well, you are responsible for overseeing the preservation of nature," retorted Menem.

"These are ranch-grown furs," she answered.

But it was too late. The president had launched his barb and afterwards acted as if nothing had happened. Several days later, after the episode of the snowball fight, Maria Julia left the president's party ahead of schedule and went to London. This was a political act that did not go unnoticed.

There she agreed to talk with SOMOS to respond to criticism.

[Sangenis] People say you are frivolous, that you wear luxurious furs at the same time as you are secretary of natural resources, that you are living in your last days....

[Alsogaray] The same thing always happens to me on official trips. They criticize me, using any excuse. I have just heard that anonymous charges are being made against me in Government House. Anyone who says things anonymously is contemptible. I consider that of no importance.

[Sangenis] But as a government official the image of the institutions you represent should matter to you.

[Alsogaray] I am interested in being evaluated for how I do my job. If I had to spend my time correcting all the things that people make up, I would not be able to get any work done. The same thing happened to the president in Davos. Imagine: David Mulford, one of the most important men in the world of economics, was weighing Menem's ability to carry out the economic plan. And the press spent all their time on nonsense and trivia....

[Sangenis] Just as you amused yourself by throwing snowballs in Davos.

[Alsogaray] That was an expression of joy. If I throw snowballs at a friend or at my son Alvarito, it means that I feel good. It is not a childish prank. I threw snowballs when I was a kid, I throw them now, and I will still be throwing snowballs when I am 80 years old. But I do not think I threw snowballs at (Hugo) Anzorreguy. Oh, yes, I did when they were taking pictures with a hat that was making everybody laugh. It was only a joke.

[Sangenis] But could you not avoid wearing luxurious furs considering your environmental position?

[Alsogaray] It is exactly the reverse of what you think. The furs are from animals raised on a ranch. And everybody knows that is one way of protecting the environment.

[Sangenis] It seems clear that you have lost the president's support.

[Alsogaray] I believe that is wishful thinking on the part of people who want to see me go. It is idle gossip. I am doing my job as I should.

[Sangenis] But you cannot deny that you are being criticized more and more.

[Alsogaray] I feel they are attacking me with the same stupidity as they attack the president.

[Sangenis] But you have just had a luxury apartment built and you seem to be displaying your wealth more and more ostentatiously.

[Alsogaray] People used to say I could not get involved in politics because I had a lot of money. Now they say I cannot be a government official because I have money. Please!

[Sangenis] But that does not explain why they criticize you....

[Alsogaray] At the very time when President Menem goes to present the success of his privatization program in an international forum as important as Davos, the gossip and unfair criticism grows out of proportion.

[Sangenis] Ironically, some call you the multipurpose government official. How do you describe yourself?

[Alsogaray] You know how I see myself, as a trouble-shooter. They give me the most difficult problems to solve. I am not one of those people who go crying to the president to support them when they are facing the worst moments. When I had to deal with some very tough people, both in ENTEL and in SOMISA, I spent several days without talking to the president. Because I believe in myself, on my own, I solved those problems. I get invitations from all over the world—the United States, Chile, Panama—asking me to explain how I managed to carry off my privatization projects. In Switzerland they ask about my ENTEL project as a model.

[Sangenis] Maria Julia, are these your last days as a government official?

[Alsogaray] I do not dwell on that. I am calm and I am working just as I did on the first day. I have already had other campaigns against me. This is not the first one....

[Sangenis] Is it the last?

[Alsogaray] I hope not. I think I will be able to keep on working.

Bolivia

Government Defends Coca at UN Meeting in Geneva

PY0204214893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0735 GMT
2 Apr 93

[Text] Vienna, 2 Apr (EFE)—Bolivia defended before the UN International Narcotics Control Board in Vienna on 1 April the industrialization and commercialization of coca products for legal use, including medical purposes, when it explained that "coca is not the same as cocaine."

Gonzalo Torrico, the Bolivian delegation chief attending the 36th meeting of the UN organization, gave WHO a detailed study of coca's properties, saying it is necessary to distinguish between legal and illegal coca cultivations.

Torrico's explanation was an answer to the board's communique stating its concern over an alleged new Bolivian Government policy for narcotics control and proposing an official visit by a UN mission to discuss the issue with Bolivian officials.

Torrico explained that three areas for coca growing were defined in Bolivia: traditional production, surplus production in transition, and illegal production.

He said: "Based on these three aspects, traditional and legal production is under government control through the Regulation for Coca Commercialization and the granting of licenses."

Upon denying that the effort for industrialization and commercialization for legal means has something to do with lifting sanctions on drug consumption, Torrico said that Bolivia "has complied and will comply with its international commitments" in the struggle against drug trafficking.

The Bolivian delegate defended the alternative development program for the Indian population, which has traditionally lived off the sale of coca. He said, however, that this is a long-range process that affects many producers and its success will not be possible "without international support."

Foreign Minister Comments on Relations With Chile

PY0604174493 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish
1100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean Abaroa at Rio Group meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, by Eduardo Perez Iribarne in La Paz—live]

[Text] [Perez] Good morning, Mr. MacLean. We read the statement by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma in the newspapers this morning. He said that once diplomatic relations with Bolivia are established, we will be able to discuss Bolivia's much sought-after outlet to the sea. Please comment on this?

[MacLean] I have not heard about that but I did hear him say something very important yesterday: When asked what he thought about Bolivia's claim to an outlet to the sea, he surprised me by telling the press that the issue has never been shelved, that we have discussed it, and that we will continue to do so. This is significant because Chile has been reluctant to include this item in the agenda of bilateral relations. That is the only statement by Silva Cimma of which I am aware because I witnessed what he said to the press.

[Perez] Mr. MacLean, do you think Bolivia will re-establish diplomatic relations with Chile in the near future?

[MacLean] I do not think this will be possible in the near future—unless, of course, a solution suddenly presents itself. To establish diplomatic relations with Chile is not an objective per se, but a diplomatic means to settle our dispute. We have not found a solution yet, but I am sure we are on the right track. I do not think we will see light at the end of the tunnel in the near future but we must bear in mind that we will not trade an outlet to the sea for diplomatic relations. This is a misjudgment that some government officials are trying to impose on Bolivians. Chile will not give back our coast in exchange for diplomatic relations. Diplomatic relations, I repeat, are a tool through which to settle our disputes with Chile.

[Perez] With regard to relations between Bolivia and Chile, your Chilean counterpart said yesterday that more has been accomplished in three years than in a whole century. How would you interpret this statement?

[MacLean] I would interpret it as very positive because I believe—and have always said—that it is best for Chile to not have diplomatic relations with Bolivia. [sentence as heard] We had become isolated and engrossed in our own problems and I do not think that was very wise. We have made great strides to improve our image. Now Chile has a very positive idea about the new Bolivia we are constructing, in the sense that Bolivia has dropped its belligerent and aggressive stance and has become a peaceful and determined interlocutor that is well aware of what it wants and is trying to achieve it through

dialogue, agreement, and peaceful means. I think this is most important because in the past we were seen as intractable.

[Perez] If General Hugo Banzer Suarez wins the elections and becomes the Bolivian president, will you be his foreign minister?

[MacLean] You very well know, Eduardo, that this is a decision that each president must make according to his foreign policy objectives. In all likelihood, General Banzer will continue the same guidelines established by this administration, but that is a decision only he can make.

[Perez] I know, but would you accept the post of foreign minister if he asked you?

[MacLean] I think I would decide there and then.

[Perez] Chile and Bolivia will sign a free trade agreement at noon. Could you mention the most salient points of the said agreement?

[MacLean] First, I would like to say that it is not a free trade agreement but an economic complementation agreement. The former is much broader and entails the removal of all tariffs. We thought it would be more advisable to start with an economic complementation agreement because the private sector believes it is to soon to implement a free trade agreement. The economic complementation agreement seeks, above all, to boost our exports to Chile. It includes three lists of products: one includes about 100 products that will enter both countries duty-free, there is a second list that has been updated, and a third list which favors Bolivia and which includes several Bolivian products that will enter Chile duty-free. This will enable us to boost our exports, earn foreign exchange, improve the standard of living of our people, and balance our trade deficit with Chile. Another point worth highlighting is that the agreement includes a chapter on energy complementation, which will enable us to sell natural gas to Chile.

[Perez] Is beer included in the list you have just mentioned?

[MacLean] Bolivian beer is already exported to Chile and is selling well there. The new list includes products that were unable to enter the Chilean market due to the tariff barriers imposed by that country, such as agricultural and agroindustrial products. It also includes some Bolivian minerals that were prevented from entering Chile due to the high customs duties they had to pay.

[Perez] Thank you very much.

High-Ranking Police Officers Suspended for Corruption

PY0704125693 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish
1100 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Two generals from the National Police were suspended yesterday and will be investigated on charges

of corruption. They are General Franklin Gonzalez, National Police inspector general, and General Fernando Lopez, chairman of the Police Disciplinary Board. They must demonstrate their innocence against evidence that they collected the salaries of phantom policemen and other items in the police accounts.

National Police Commander General Luis Prieto Quiroz yesterday confirmed the suspension of these two generals who will be investigated on charges of fraud which they committed through phantom items in the police accounts.

Brazil

New Party Formed From Merger of PDC, PDS

PY0604221193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—Sao Paulo Prefect Paulo Maluf stated yesterday that he will give no respite to Itamar Franco's administration. With the authority of one who has commanded the third-largest political force in Congress since yesterday, after the creation of the Progressive Renewal Party, PPR, [Partido Progressista Renovador]—which resulted from the merger of the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] and the PDS [Democratic Social Party]—Maluf warned President Itamar Franco that the government needs to prove its efficiency in order to ensure support. Maluf does not accept the proposal of government Senate leader Pedro Simon, who wants to postpone the presidential campaign to guarantee governability after the plebiscite.

Maluf said: There will be no respite. We will adopt an independent position. If the government succeeds it will ensure its support. If it continues making mistakes, it will be given no respite.

During yesterday's convention, it was decided to dissolve the PDC and the PDS—the latest already was called the major western party—and the PPR was created to become the major center political force and to participate in the 1994 elections along with the leftist PT [Workers' Party] headed by Luis Inacio Lula da Silva. The new political force has 73 deputies and 10 senators, and ranks third after the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] and the PFL [Liberal Front Party]. If the support of congressmen from the PL, PRN [National Reconstruction Party], and the PFL is confirmed within two or three weeks, the PPR may match the PFL, with a federal bloc of approximately 100 congressmen. [sentence as published]

Says Senator Epitacio Cafeteira, leader of the defunct PDC and current PPR member: "The PPR has advantages over the PFL because it has a strong candidate for the 1994 presidential campaign. The PFL has Antonio Carlos Magalhaes in the opposition, but the entire party is in the government. That is the big difference."

PPR Senator for Santa Catarina Espiridiao Amin was elected party president yesterday. Paulo Maluf, the former PDS president and the merger's main coordinator, will become honorary PPR president. The biggest news of the day was Deputy Sandra Cavalcanti's decision to join. Cavalcanti promised to bring PFL Senator Hydekell Freitas, 25 prefects, and five deputies from the Rio de Janeiro party bloc.

Sao Paulo Mayor Denies Being Presidential Candidate

PY0704022093 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Through an official communique, Sao Paulo Mayor Paulo Maluf today denied he is a candidate for the presidency of the Republic, but he renewed his criticism of the federal government, which, in his opinion, is getting worse.

In Brasilia, President Itamar Franco preferred to conclude a discussion with a sentence on Mayor Paulo Maluf that was distributed by the press office. Franco said: History keeps a careful account of his political career.

Chile

Agriculture Official Rejects U.S. 'Protectionism' Charges

PY0604220993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1512 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 6 Apr (EFE)—Chilean Agriculture Under Secretary Maximiliano Cox today rejected U.S. charges of protectionism. He noted that Washington spends more than \$35 billion annually to give subsidies to its producers.

In remarks to the ESTRATEGIA newspaper, Cox described the U.S. Government's statements on Chile as "amazing." He said the United States grants annual subsidies worth \$36 billion to producers. In the report, the United States describes the price band system adopted by Chile for some agricultural products as protectionist, and accuses the country of subsidizing forest and irrigation projects.

Cox stated that the price bands that establish minimum and maximum prices cannot be regarded as protectionist because they are applied to products unprofitable in the country because of international prices.

Cox explained that a study conducted by the Catholic University of Chile revealed that during the six of the eight years in which the band price system was used, the internal quotation was lower than that of the international market.

Cox stated that the subsidy granted for forests is aimed at preserving the most seriously eroded land. He added that this fund is assigned to enterprises' accounting, and it is used to pay taxes when forests become productive.

Concerning irrigation projects, he said they are financed quickly because it increases production and the collection of the valued added tax (VAT) automatically goes up.

Cox said the United States grants subsidies to forests, irrigation, and exports. It also imposes direct protection along its borders, global import quotas, payment for deficiencies, and pasture for subsidized cattle on public properties, among other things.

Lautaro Movement Members Arrested

PY0604130893 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Investigations Police personnel have arrested six individuals, among them a woman and a girl under 18, on charges of involvement in several holdups. They were found to be Lautaro Movement members who were directly involved in four holdups in Rancagua, Graneros, and Curico, during which they stole more than 70 million Pesos.

The detainees were identified as (Pablo Tavilo), 26, Raul Montoya, 28, Brazilian Tania Cordeiro, 39, Alberto Barra, 31, Juan Carlos Hurtado, 25, and a 16 year old girl whose initials are E.V.I.

The police recovered two cars, computers, plastic bombs, and two revolvers.

The detainees were placed under the jurisdiction of Judge Arnoldo Dreyse.

Colombia

Indians Charge Marker at Brazilian Border Moved

PA0604221893 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Report by Fabio Callejas Ramirez]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—The Colombian Government has lost at least 4,000 meters of land at the border area with Brazil. The Indians in this remote area have charged that a border marker was arbitrarily moved in El Ayo. The following is the statement made to Caracol by Indian (Armando Carahevilla Puneo):

[Begin (Carahevilla) recording] We want to know if the government has signed a new Rio de Janeiro Protocol agreement regarding the border area. We want to know because a marker that was located at the mouth of El Ayo creek has been moved approximately 3,000 to 4,000 meters. [end recording]

The Indian has requested that the Foreign Ministry issue a statement to clarify the issue.

*** Mayor's Dealings With FARC Investigated**

93SM0212A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Mar 93 p 4C

[Text] The regional justice system will take over the investigation. The officials wanted the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] to guarantee peacefulness at a Government Council meeting.

The mayor of La Palma (Cundinamarca) and the manager of the department's Institute of Water and Sanitation, both murdered on 28 February, were on their way to a discussion with the guerrillas, to prevent them from obstructing the holding of a Government Council session in that municipality.

The meeting agreed upon with members of the FARC's 22d Front apparently was for the purpose of delivering an undetermined sum of money to them, and making a "gentlemen's agreement."

To close the deal, the two officials were also carrying a bottle of whiskey, which was broken after the shooting that took place in the village of Coyabo, near La Palma.

These conclusions were reached by the Office of the Prosecutor General, which assumed responsibility for investigating the incident.

The judicial officials took testimony from peasants and persons close to the two victims.

According to those accounts, Gilberto Bustos, the manager of the Cundinamarca Institute of Water and Sanitation, was to carry in a suitcase a large sum of money to be turned over, that day, to the representatives of the guerrilla front controlling that eastern zone of the department.

Some of the witnesses claimed that, after having received the money, the criminals promised to allow the departmental Government Council meeting, set for the next weekend, that is, last Sunday, 7 March, to take place in a completely normal manner.

The investigations by the Prosecutor General's Office indicate that the officials apparently did not bring the total amount of money demanded, and that the criminals killed them for that reason.

Persons close to Bustos claimed that they were unaware of the contents of the suitcase, because he never left it, nor permitted them to open it.

On the day of the crime, Bustos and the La Palma mayor, Enrique Fajardo Alvarez, were returning to Bogota after coordinating some plans related to the meeting of the departmental government's high-ranking officials.

The trip was uneventful, and they were accompanied by the car carrying Bustos' bodyguards as far as the site where the highways of the municipalities of La Palma and La Pena intersection.

There, Bustos told his bodyguards to give the mayor a revolver, to switch cars, and to wait for him 300 meters ahead, at "Mrs. Teresa's shop."

Fifteen minutes later, they were killed by several shots from an AK-47 rifle. The suitcase was not found on the scene of the crime, but the glass from the whiskey bottle was.

The testimony from the witnesses established the fact that the perpetrators of the crime were several members of the 22d Front.

The features of the double homicide required that the competent authority to hear the case would be the Regional (or secret) Prosecutor General's Office. For this reason, the case records were sent to that office yesterday.

Moreover, the Prosecutor General's Office decided that the status of the two victims warranted the investigation's being turned over to a "faceless" judge.

* Industrial Sector Output, Expectations Viewed

93SM0211A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 9 Mar 93 p 9A

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—Colombia's industrial production capacity increased appreciably during 1992.

In fact, 51 percent of the national business firms noted that their production capacity grew in 1992, compared with 1991; and the production potential declined in only 3 percent of the firms in the manufacturing sector.

This disclosure was made in the Fedesarrollo [Federation for Development] Business Opinion Poll, with responses from nearly 400 companies.

The increase is due to the adoption of new technological processes, the expansion of installed capacity, and the replacement of machinery and equipment.

The poll results reflect the readjustment of the nation's industrial sector, gearing it to the start of the economic openness process initiated in 1991. The latter brought business owners into new productive investment dynamics, aimed at making national products more competitive.

The positive results also indicate that the problem of electricity rationing affecting large and medium-sized businesses has been surmounted to a great extent.

Despite the negative situation typical at the beginning of the year, business owners think, based on their expectations, that 1993 will be a good year, and that the ground rules are more clearly defined: There will be no more amendments to the VAT [value-added tax], nor new tax reforms. They expect rationing to end starting in the second half, and there is a certain amount of exchange stability, as well as a better adjustment to the openness process and to free competition.

A total of 65 percent of those polled thought that production would rise during the next three months, and 58 percent anticipated that the sales prices of their products would increase over the previous quarter.

According to the poll, during January the level of orders and volume of shipments to be made neither rose nor dropped significantly, in comparison with the second half of last year. Rather, they remained approximately the same, indicating that the demand is continuing the expansion shown during the past six months.

Exports Poor

Despite all the progress in the free trade agreements with the neighboring countries, and certain tariff preferences granted to Colombia by the United States and the European Community, Colombian export activity was curtailed during the quarter from November 1992 to January 1993.

That is the conclusion reached by exporters in the Fedesarrollo poll, when they compared their shipments abroad with those made during the previous quarter. A total of 29 percent of business owners said that their sales abroad were larger, 44 percent considered them virtually the same, and 27 percent reported a decline.

But there is every indication that the situation will not improve, according to the responses from exporters, because their expectations for selling their products abroad during the next quarter are not gratifying.

According to the business owners in the sector, the low rate of growth in exports is due to problems with internal transportation, port services, and international transportation.

Benefits, Obstacles, and Risks

The high rate of internal demand and the ease in importing machinery and equipment were the main factors benefiting the investment of certain business firms. This was accompanied, albeit to a lesser extent, by the availability of their own financial resources and their organizational capacity for making the respective internal changes in the companies.

In the case of certain firms, those favorable conditions were confronted with several obstacles for making investments, such as the lack of incentives for exports, the low level of internal demand for certain products, the lack of protection for imports, high taxes, and an unsuitable ratio between production costs and sales prices.

In the view of 31 percent of business owners, internal demand is unquestionably the factor causing the greatest uncertainty regarding investment decisions in 1993, although to a lesser extent than during the previous four years.

Also representing a major risk factor are the fluctuations in government policies, tax outlays, lack of incentives for exports, and excessive protection for certain imports.

Standstill

The poll showed that, during the first month of 1993, industrial production was not only less intense, but also at a kind of standstill in comparison with 1991 and 1992. This situation is comparable only to the one experienced

in January 1991, when the industries reduced their production rates significantly, increasing sales of their stock on hand.

There is a continuation of the cautious tendency evinced by industrialists in November and December 1992, which broke off the clearly recovering production rate of last September and October.

Factors Affecting Export Activity During the Last Quarter

	Favorably (percent)	Unfavorably (percent)	Result
International transportation	41	59	-36
Port services	31	69	-38
Internal transportation	21	79	-59
Credit	74	26	48
Vallejo Plan	88	12	77
Government procedures	64	36	29

Source: Business Opinion Poll

Main Problems of Colombian Trade

	Percent
Assets rotation	22
Low demand	19
Supply of national products	10
Direct factory sales	9
Contraband	8
Supply of foreign products	6
Suppliers' credit	6
Financial costs	6
Door-to-door sales	5
Bank credit	3
Qualified personnel	3
Electric power shortage	3
Other costs	2
Others	0

Source: Fedesarrollo-Fenalco [National Federation of Businessmen] Business Poll, January/93

*** Social Development Plan for Uraba Discussed**

93SM0198A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 8 Mar 93 p 14A

[Article by Nelson Freddy Padilla C.: "Millions To Be Invested To Save Uraba"]

[Text] In another attempt to get the upper hand over violence, the government has allocated 132 billion pesos in order to provide 12,000 new housing units for the nearly 600,000 inhabitants of the important zone, plus another 500 million for "reintegrated" persons, health programs, education, roads, and public services. There will also be a tax for forest conservation, the Presidential Delegation, Regional Auditor's Office, commissioner of

justice, consultant services for the resolution of conflicts, a DAS [Administrative Department of Security] office, Attorney General and Public Defender offices, and police officers who are high school graduates.

The government has finally agreed that it made a mistake in Uraba, admitting that the remedies it put in place to cure the area's problems were counterproductive and that, as a result, violence rather than steady progress continues unabated in an area measuring 31,000 square kilometers.

Although this is not what President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo will say when he visits the region this week, his unveiling of the Investment Plan for Social Development and Justice in Uraba is ample demonstration of the fact.

In response to the January 1992 demand from the Commission To Overcome Violence, a 42-page document proposes an overall solution to a conflict that appeared to have been solved early in 1991 by a so-called Social Pact that reintegrated EPL [Popular Liberation Army] guerrillas into civilian life.

The commission states in the report that "...government intervention (in Uraba) has mainly relied on repression and neglected its social functions." It, therefore, warns that "there may be a resurgence of unresolved social conflicts and tensions.... If the mistakes made in the reintegration process are not corrected, it may be reversed...."

Nevertheless, the study was pigeonholed and outbreaks of violence, which had dropped 66 percent during that period compared with 1990, shot back up as the result of so-called "private justice," which so far in 1993 has taken the lives of nearly 100 persons for presumably political reasons, mainly at the hands of EPL rebels. This fact alone resulted in the drafting of the Uraba Plan, which EL ESPECTADOR has seen.

New Diagnosis

The National Planning Department's analysis states that the project will cover 578,106 persons, including 6,000 Indians, in 19 municipalities in the Departments of Antioquia, Cordoba, and Choco.

The department's official diagnosis of Uraba, summarized below, could not be worse, marked as it is by a situation of persistent violence.

The weak government presence caused the growth of agriculture and an increase in the urban population, which comprises 30 percent of all residents, in addition to labor confrontations and disputes over land and public services.

The inability of all levels of government to ensure compliance with rules of coexistence, guarantee the rights of workers and businessmen, and protect private, public, and community property, in the case of protection for Indians, has allowed old forms of violence to be perpetuated as a means of resolving conflicts.

The municipalities have not made adequate efforts to raise taxes, plan development, or ensure compliance with the basic standards of municipal life. For example, banana growers do not pay the Value-Added Tax (IVA) or the Industry and Trade Tax.

Municipal administrations have failed to exercise their authority in order to prevent recurring invasions of public, private, and communal property (INCORA [Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform] figures show that 5,677 hectares have been occupied by 1,734 families), nor do they use their powers to expropriate urban property in order to meet the needs of poor people.

In the Antioquia section of Uraba, two legal circuits are operating with a total of 15 offices, six of which are public prosecutor's offices. Every municipality has at least one court. Nevertheless, the low presence of Judicial Police and nonexistence of DAS agents reduce the investigative capabilities of prosecutors, resulting in little use of judicial recourses.

The weakness of prosecutors goes hand-in-hand with a high murder rate, which in all municipalities of the Apartado circuit exceeds the country's average, and which in Chigorodo is 20 times greater! Tierralta (Cordoba), Unguia, and Acandi (Choco) also have a higher rate than the rest of Colombia.

Prosecutor's offices operate only in Acandi and Riosucio (Choco), and the number of courts for the size of the population is too low in Tierralta and Valencia (Cordoba).

There are only four notaries in Arboletes, Chigorodo, Turbo, and Tierralta. Between 1987 and 1990, the number of documents recorded dropped 20 percent, in contrast with the 10-percent increase in notarizations nationally and confirming the low use of legal means of recourse.

The Antinarcotics Police and Environmental Judge Advocate's Court have identified the area as a coca-growing region, and even though the illegal crops are basically found in the Abibe Mountains, they have in recent years spread to practically all municipalities in the region, particularly agricultural areas near the borders.

The increase in jobs and private income from banana growing has attracted people to the four municipalities comprising the banana belt, particularly in the urban area of Apartado, where the growth rate of the urban population has been 10 percent for each of the past three years.

Such rapid growth has put great pressure on services and land likely to be settled, but municipal revenue and government investments have not kept up with needs.

Inadequate Services

In the Antioquia section of Uraba, 63 percent of the people have access to water systems, compared with 82 percent for the country as a whole. The sewage system serves 30 percent of the people and the situation is critical in Turbo, where the figure drops to only 2 percent of all housing compared with 50 percent for the nation as a whole. In rural areas, such services are available to a scant 15 percent of the people.

Despite cases such as the banana-growing region, where daily wages are the highest in the country, families have difficulty finding land where they may build homes and getting banks to grant them loans. In turn, the latter fear pressure from organizations that promote defaulting on debts.

In the three areas of Choco, the sewage system is precarious and Riosucio has no water system. Municipalities in Cordoba have poorer service than the rest of the country, Tierralta and Valencia have no sewage system, and rural areas have no such services at all.

Nearly 30 percent of all homes have no electricity, some 90 percent of all families have no phones, and television does not reach most of the people.

There is absolutely no policy for backing or promoting Indian communities, which have very little income and do not know how to protect the ecosystem.

In terms of health care, the region has 12 hospitals, 16 health centers, and 42 first aid stations, an acceptable infrastructure before it was damaged by the earthquake last October. Facilities are poorly equipped, and there is no emergency system. A new hospital is nearing completion in Turbo, but it has no equipment and is not operating.

In Uraba, 24 percent of all children under the age of five receive preschool education. The average rate of elementary school attendance is 98 percent, a figure that drops to 38 percent by high school. Results are poor, as expressed in a high failure and dropout rate.

Finally, the area's road link with the central region and the rest of the Atlantic Coast is poor.

Solutions

Given this depressing picture, through the Uraba Plan, which covers a three-year period (1993-95), the government will seek to create spaces for the institutional solution of conflicts, make legal recourses both reliable and respectable, and strengthen the preventive and investigative capacity of authorities.

The main decisions include the following: the creation of a presidential delegation for Uraba; and the appointment of a Ministry of Justice commissioner who will design a plan of immediate action including the creation of a Regional Prosecutor's Office to assume authority for procedures and instances now based in Medellin and adding units to the technical investigative corps.

It will also be necessary to establish a Hall of Justice and Conciliation that will double as a headquarters for the deputy prosecutor and public defender for Uraba and mainly train prosecutors. It is to be built on vacant lots next to the Apartado Palace of Justice.

In order to investigate complaints filed against members of the Armed Forces in the region, the Prosecutor's Office will study the appointment of a deputy prosecutor. Likewise, family services offices will be set up in all municipal capitals and notary offices in Apartado and Riosucio. The ICBF [Colombian Family Welfare Institute] will set up Welfare Centers in Murindo, Vigia del Fuerte, and Tierralta.

In order to improve prison security and inmates' living conditions, the Turbo prison will undergo repair, and another facility housing 100 persons will be built in Apartado.

The Armed Forces must step up civic-military actions with the aid of military engineers. The Turbo Naval Station will be moved and a Coast Guard unit will be assigned to it to improve control of arms and drug trafficking in the Gulf of Uraba.

Police will set up an antinarcotics base in Turbo, expand the police academy program in the region, and appoint an inspector with headquarters in Apartado. The DAS will set up an operations post in Apartado staffed by at least 50 investigators.

At the same time, an intermunicipal communications system will be set up and assigned frequencies by the ministry in question.

As part of the program of municipal management, municipalities will be included in the Institutional Development Plan. Within the next two years, the official land register for municipalities and rural areas will be set up.

The government expects to complete projects to optimize the water system and expand the sewage system to

cover almost all the chief towns. In the banana-growing region Inurbe is to provide housing for some 4,000 families that do not currently have adequate shelter. INCORA will give land to at least 700 families over the next two years.

Work will begin on reconstruction of the health infrastructure damaged by last year's earthquake, especially in Pavarando, Pavarandocito, Opagado, Bajira, and Murindo. The new hospital in Turbo will be equipped and the Chigorodo, Necocli, San Juan de Uraba, and San Pedro de Uraba hospitals will be remodeled. Work will also be done on the Uveros, Pueblo Nuevo, and El Totumo first aid stations. In addition, every local health organization must set up a primary care unit and modernize its health plan.

In order to improve education, 40 high school classrooms and 3,000 new primary schools will be built. School equipment will be improved and the Jaime Isaza Cadavid Polytechnical School will offer technical programs relating to civilian projects and agricultural activities.

The road infrastructure will be improved by completion of the highway to the sea, the road connecting Monteria with Turbo, and the Monteria-Valencia-San Pedro de Uraba highway. The electric power system will be completed by the Cerromatoso-Urra-Apartado line, the telephone system will be expanded to 360 channels, and the television signal should be completely restored by Inravisión.

Finally, a tax will be imposed on water use, paid for by water systems, irrigation companies, and individual owners. Resources will be allocated for the rehabilitation of basins and forestry conservation. An alternative development project is being drafted to fight illegal crops. The total investment in the Uraba Plan is 132 billion pesos.

Due to the complex nature of the conflict that has plagued Uraba, the government emphasizes that the solution will not consist solely of social investments in Bogota, but involve all residents of Uraba, who must do their part in making sure that the pacification program is not just another setting for violence.

Ecuador

Bank Reports Drastic Export Drop in Jan, Feb

PA0704042893 Quito *Voz de los Andes* in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Quito—The Central Bank of Ecuador has reported that the revenues obtained from the country's 10 main foreign exports dropped drastically in the first two months of 1993 in comparison to the same months in 1992. According to the latest official report, total exports in January and February amounted to \$383 million. We exported \$495 million in the same period last year. The income obtained from oil sales—the

country's main foreign exchange source—dropped from \$186 million to \$184 million. Ecuador is the world's main banana exporter but exports fell from \$131 million to \$59 million in this period. Ecuador's shrimp exports fell from \$76 million to \$56 million.

Government To Implement New Tuna Fishing Measure

PA0704045093 Quito *Voz de los Andes* in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Media sources reported on 6 April that the Ecuadoran Government will implement a law that allows tuna fishing in areas where dolphins are present. This measure will increase the dolphin mortality rate to 187 a year.

Up to now, the law prohibited the fishing and unloading of tuna that had been netted with dolphins. The law was implemented to avoid the death of dolphins and effectively brought the number of these mammals killed to zero.

The sources added, however, that the past law placed the Ecuadoran fishing fleet at a disadvantage in tuna fishing.

Paraguay

Presidential Candidate Seeks Court Suspension of Elections

PY0704122593 Asuncion *ULTIMA HORA* in Spanish 6 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] Leandro Prieto Yegros, the presidential candidate of the National Progressive Movement, MNP, today asked the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional the call for general elections by the executive branch.

Prieto Yegros also asked the court to declare unconstitutional the measures adopted by the Central Electoral Board, JEC, which rejected his candidacy for president of the Republic.

The JEC rejected Prieto Yegros' candidacy because he was nominated by an incipient movement that does not yet meet all the requirements established by the electoral code. Prieto Yegros accuses the JEC of discrimination because he has reportedly presented all the required documents.

Until the MNP request has been analyzed, the movement urges the suspension of the 9 May general elections called by the executive branch.

The Supreme Court has passed the request to the Attorney General who will issue the appropriate ruling on the case.

MNP representatives state that the call for elections by the executive branch is not valid.

National Encounter Candidate Interviewed

PY0604222093 Asuncion *ABC COLOR* in Spanish 4 Apr 93 pp 4-5

[Text] Guillermo Caballero Vargas has emerged on the national political arena breaking some schemes. From the internal organization of the National Encounter [EN], which unites political inclination with business efficiency, to its "image of trademark" that represents the promise of economic development with social justice, the businessman and lawyer knows how to gain some elbow room in our country's political arena. Supported by a tremendous publicity apparatus, he dedicated in Paraguay what for years has been known in developed nations: politics incorporated into marketing [preceding word in English] structures. That, however, is achieved without disregarding the essential point of his action, which is the need for a profound change, of form and substance, for our country. Guillermo Caballero Vargas is the second presidential hopeful in this series of notes, intended to profile the candidates and their government programs.

The Candidate's Curriculum Vitae

Guillermo Caballero Vargas was born in Asuncion on 1 December 1943. He is the son of Carlos Caballero Gatti, Febrerista Revolutionary Party president and candidate for president of the Republic for the same party in 1968. His grandfather was Marcos Caballero Codos, Liberal Party leader and member of the 1911 triumvirate with Adolfo Aponte and Mario Usher. He is the great grandson of General Bernardino Caballero, Colorado Party founder and president of the Republic from 1880 to 1886.

He married Ivonne Bosch in 1972 and has five children: Montserrat, Rocio, Sol, Marco Aurelio, and Macarena.

He graduated from the National University of Asuncion's law school, although the first two years of his education were spent studying at the law school in Montevideo, Uruguay. His elementary studies were at the International School of Asuncion, while his high school education was received at the International School and the Argentine Ward school in Buenos Aires, and J.M. Pueyrredon in Salta.

He is a former member of the "Las Palmas" business group' executive board, which is made up of Manufactura de Pilar Inc. and other industrial companies that process cotton for export. This business consortium generates approximately 3,000 jobs and is responsible for 10 percent of total national exports.

He has participated in several forums, symposiums, and seminars, always within the economic and political framework.

Guillermo Caballero Vargas began his political career at the university, linked to the Febrerista Revolutionary Party Youth, participating as a board leader from 1962

to 1966. During the 1970's he maintained and developed new political relations in the opposition front.

In the 1980's he intensified his anti-dictatorial civic participation, which prompted some economic retaliation from the government, which began to harass the group of companies with which he was associated by closing credits from state banks. In 1987, he assumed the presidency of the Institute for Latin American Integration (IDIAL), the basic objectives of which are political and social agreement and the integration of Paraguay with Latin American countries.

Since 1991 he has led the National Encounter political movement aiming at the 1993 general elections.

Armed Forces and Citizens' Security

- The Armed Forces belong to the nation and are part of the people. It is up to them to act in democracy from a specific plan of their professional functions, abstaining from intervening in the political field.
- In past decades the military dictatorships in Latin America have distorted their role and increased too much the structure of the Armed Forces under the ideological veil of the national security doctrine. It is necessary to adjust their limits to the true needs of national defense, with respect for the civil power that stems from the people's sovereignty, within the framework of the Constitution and the laws, and under the principle of a reasonable defensive strategy based on deterrence.
- It will be necessary to begin a new stage of civil-military relations based on strict respect for constitutional roles in order to dissipate many fears and help the people recover their pride in the old and glorious tradition of its Armed Forces.

People's Security

It is inadmissible for democracy to be synonymous with insecurity or a lack of protection for the people because that would fatally lead to dreams about past authoritarianism. The tolerance and even the complicity of officials with organized crime would be even more inadmissible. The state has the obligation to watch over the security of people, whatever their social condition.

The EN government will fight with all its energy, backed by the legitimacy of its authority, against the criminal activities of drug trafficking, smuggling, car theft, stealing, and cattle theft.

Agrarian Reform, Basic Point for a New Country

The EN agrarian policy will be based on an effective agrarian reform conceived as a basic tool to achieve the overall development of the rural sector and protection of the environment. This policy is basically centered on the reorganization of land ownership and distribution,

public and private technical assistance, credits, organization of peasant associations, special education, and health, with emphasis on preventive medicine.

Different policies for small, medium, and large-sized producers will be implemented to achieve these objectives. Due to the rural producers' different needs, different policies also will be implemented for producers in the country's various regions, taking into account whether they are land owners.

Regarding peasants without land, two cases must be considered: Those who want to continue farming and those who do not. The policy of creating jobs for those who want to continue in agriculture will include the provision of land suitable for cultivation, technological support, and credits. For those who no longer want to continue in agricultural activity, the policy will be to give them credits and to train them for small agroindustrial, handicrafts, or another activity needed in the country.

The reorganization of the type of land ownership we want will have to be carried out through different complementary channels such as the following: a) enclosed fiscal land, that is, the portion of land surrounded by other state land; b) surplus fiscal land or land with titles registering a smaller area of land than the one occupied; c) expropriation of unproductive large areas of land; d) gradual higher taxes to encourage production in large areas; e) recovery of badly used land; and f) direct purchase of land by the IBR [Agrarian Reform Institute].

The commitment of the EN program is aimed at creating sources of sufficiently well-paid productive jobs, as well as improving the distribution of wealth.

Social democracy involves the organized participation of the people and the full incorporation of the groups traditionally separated from or discriminated against by society into an active part of the national life. The exercise of the people's right to free determination and the full enforcement of human rights are the essence of social democracy.

Based on the words of the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference, we should "rebuild the social and moral bases of the nation." The EN is aware of the current serious injustice and profound social differences. Therefore, the policies to vindicate women's rights, to give participation and decisionmaking powers to youths, to dignify the social and cultural condition of peasants, and to respect the rights of Indians will be enhanced.

Role of the State

The EN economic policy project is aimed at a competitive market economy with a high degree of individual freedom, and economic efficiency with the aid of the government to correct deficiencies and faults that may occur in a market system, and to facilitate the necessary social equity for sustained economic and social development.

Efforts will be made for a joint and coordinated action between the private and public sectors, both of which will fulfill a specific function. The state should avoid any undue intervention in the private sector because it can restrict competition by monopolizing economic activities for the benefit of bureaucracy and by discouraging the creation of new companies, by carrying out control over investments, or by implementing unnecessarily protectionist measures.

Education

The preparations and implementation of a policy capable of overcoming the crisis in our national education system will be one of the government plan's priorities. This policy must be in keeping with the model of development sponsored by the EN that seeks a model that can be permanently updated and will allow a rational adaptation of the educational system to the modern world's changing demands.

This project conceives education as a subsystem within the general system of the nation. This means the government's policy, through the Ministry of Education, will be coordinated and interrelated with the policies of the other ministries.

The EN intends to permanently improve the education standards of all teachers, not only for the benefit of the education of all Paraguayans, but also to dignify and elevate the teaching profession.

Health

The modern concept of health services is no longer individualistic or to merely heal; it must prioritize the prevention of illnesses and the physical, mental, and social rehabilitation of the patient. This concept is necessary to carry out studies about the most common illnesses in the country, as well as the groups and regions most affected by them.

The EN will sponsor the development and implementation of a national health system to allow an organized integration of the services and institutions of the public and private sector. This will be necessary in drawing up a health services agreement, the organization of cooperatives, and other forms of services. All the resources of the public health services, which are currently inadequate, must be used to support this policy.

Social Justice

The permanent pursuit of the ideal of justice is the responsibility of the state—the organizer of coexistence—because justice, which has a historic and concrete version, can always be perfected. This is why every state and government is an approximation of justice.

The EN believes it is a priority to have constitutional principles and the organization of the judicial power work effectively. In order to make constitutional rules effective, the EN proposes, among other points, to increase the number of courts for each jurisdiction;

incorporate a computer system for the entire judicial branch; include a system of training in courts with qualifications given by judges in law school programs, create a specialized police organization or judicial police under the judicial power, and review and modernize the penitentiary system to really fulfill its objective of rehabilitating inmates to allow their readmission into society.

Human Rights

The EN looks at human rights in accordance with the most modern doctrines. Therefore, civil and political rights are not enough for the EN if they are not accompanied by social, economic, and cultural rights. In addition to that, the EN supports the principle of solidarity and international cooperation.

The EN is aware that democracy means communication, which in turn means everyone's participation in constructive dialogue. For this to become a reality, it is necessary to create mechanisms involving the people's participation in everyday life, and this can be achieved through the strengthening of social and civil organizations.

Peru

Fujimori Comments on Democracy To Supporters

PA0604214693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] A large number of Change 90 followers and militants gathered early at the government palace to show their support for President Fujimori. The president was accompanied by Oscar de la Puente, president of the Council of Ministers; his entire cabinet; Jaime Yoshiyama, president of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD], and the 43 other CCD members. Fujimori started his speech from the balcony of the Presidency by thanking the people for visiting his temporary residence.

In a speech dedicated entirely to democracy, Fujimori said democracy is the best government system because it is shaped with the people's help. He added, however, that it must be a true democracy and not what existed prior to 5 April:

[Begin Fujimori recording] The politicians and some coup supporters thought democracy was the invention [lío] of those in power and that the masses should support the burdens. For these men, democracy was an agreement, a compromise on how to share power reached at the palace while sipping cocktails. They only sought out the people when they needed votes in the elections.

The situation has changed radically since 5 April. Those who still seek to recover their privileges are saying Fujimori divided Peru on 5 April. My reply to them is that there are now certainly two distinct groups. One is made up of 5 percent of the population who think Peru

should be managed in keeping with the privileges of their leadership. The rest, that is, a great majority of Peruvians, think democracy belongs to the people. [applause]

We will continue our journey along the path we have chosen. We will celebrate on 28 July, Independence Day. [applause] [end recording]

Politicians Comment on Fujimori Government Since Coup

PA0604231593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] On the first anniversary of the self-inflicted coup, various politicians have voiced their opinions regarding government changes made over the past year:

[Begin recording] [Change 90 Leader Andres Reggiardo] Restoring emotional calm to society and the country was the main achievement. The changes brought about pride in calling ourselves Peruvians and gave us the right to live in peace by reducing terrorist violence through the capture of Abimael Guzman and his terrorist gang.

[Popular Christian Party Congresswoman Lourdes Flores] I think the country is certainly more secure. The capture of Shining Path leaders and their trial were undoubtedly important steps, although I do not think a coup d'etat was necessary. I worry about Peru's future. Economic reform will bear fruit. We will continue to build a more stable democracy if it is further institutionalized and if alternation of power, which is an essential element, is practiced.

[Former Bar Association President Raul Ferrero] Everything accomplished over the past year by an authoritarian government could certainly have been done in a democracy. We must recognize the progress achieved by the capture of important terrorist leaders, progress due to reinstatement into the international financial community, and progress in administrative aspects such as tax collection. All this, however, could have been achieved in a democracy.

[Health Minister Victor Paredes] The Peruvian people in general should reflect on their situation. They should compare pre-1990 Peru with present day Peru, but not just today as we mark the first anniversary of the national reconstruction government.

We must admit that the results are positive. Today Peru is not only reinstated into the international financial community, but subversion—the social scourge that has caused so much damage to the country—has decreased considerably.

[Renewal Movement Congressman Gonzalo Ortiz] I think Mr. Fujimori is ruling well for reasons everyone knows. He is handling the country's economy. The country was in a disastrous and calamitous state due to the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance government. He has restored well-being and reinstated us into the world economy. [end recording]

Court Sentences Overseas MRTA Members in Absentia

PA0604215193 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] An anonymous court has sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment Lucero Pampa, second in command of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA]. Since Pampa currently resides in France, the Peruvian Government is seeking her extradition. Former Deputy Jehu de Simmons was sentenced to 20 years in prison for his ties to the MRTA. The anonymous judges will hand down their ruling at any moment against sociologist Maria Luisa Benza, also in absentia. This MRTA member is living in Santiago, Chile.

Journalist Association Protests Sentence Against Member

PA0604220893 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The Journalists Association has protested the five year sentence handed down by an anonymous court against journalist Danilo Quijano. The association considers this sentence harassment of the local media. It announced that it will take its protest, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Ochoa on Relations With Colombia, U.S. Envoy's Remark

PA0704022693 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 1-12

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich guaranteed on 29 March that as long as he holds that government post, Venezuela's territorial interests will be safeguarded, by virtue of his responsibilities and his loyal commitment to the Armed Forces. "This will prevent our accepting anything that violates such interests," he stated.

Ochoa Antich said that "any process of general negotiation must consider the solution of the problem of delimitation of marine and submarine waters." He added that if such discussions generate any degree of tension, the entire integration process between Venezuela and Colombia will be at stake.

The foreign minister said, however, that the negotiations must be viewed positively, because they will produce sociopolitical conditions that will permit finding an alternative in the delimitation of waters, "where Venezuela is defending its interests in an absolutely clear manner."

He said that in that respect the Foreign Ministry has defined its course of action, but allowing for a margin of flexibility to understand and "engage in the game of diplomacy and manage the country's interests."

He reiterated that "there will not be any kind of negotiation here behind the backs of the Venezuelan public. It is simply out of the question to conceive that any government could do so." The foreign minister commented on a remark by U.S. Ambassador Michael Skol during a 29 March interview published by EL UNIVERSAL, in which he said there would be no more coups in the country. In this regard, Ochoa Antich said the U.S. diplomat displayed a "rather unusual" style in making such a remark, but at the same time has shown affection for and interest in Venezuela.

In his opinion, Skol's statement restates a traditional policy of previous U.S. administrations, which have openly rejected governments born of force.

Perez Discusses Military, Civilian Court Dispute

*PA0604180193 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 5 Apr 93*

[Report by Cecilia Pachano]

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has reiterated that the conflict between the military court and the 26th Criminal Court must be resolved within the framework of democracy by jurisdictional organizations. The president made this statement following the signing of a cooperation agreement for small enterprise activities sponsored by the Ministry of Family.

Asked about the struggle against corruption being waged in almost every country, Perez said it is an old problem that must be faced by governments, adding corruption has been fought in our country. The president explained that particularly during this term, a large part of the discretionary power the Venezuelan state had to make financial decisions was eliminated. This represented the main source of corruption.

[Begin Perez recording] What we have done in Venezuela to face corruption is extremely important. Corruption was mainly based on the discretionary power the Venezuelan state had over all areas of the economy. The fact that there was no bid law; there were preferential dollars; the state had the ability to grant tax exonerations; and the state control over import licenses for many products were the major sources of national corruption. These sources of corruption were eliminated during my administration.

Without stating there is no corruption in Venezuela—because, of course, there is corruption that we try to correct—we have reduced the means formerly used by government officials for engaging in illicit activities. [end recording]

The president called the accident on the Caracas-La Guaira Highway regrettable. He asserted this was a demonstration of an old problem in the country caused by overloaded trucks. President Perez concluded the executive will adopt serious administrative measures against those responsible.

Willing To Mediate in Court Dispute

*PA0704034193 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 6 Apr 93*

[Text] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has not dismissed the possibility of serving as mediator between the military and civilian courts. This had been suggested by Magistrate Jose Rafael Mendoza, acting president of the Judiciary Council, to resolve the conflict.

President Perez noted, however, that as chief of state he must remain detached from conflicts that arise between two state branches. He said he will gladly undertake any effort considered useful, intelligent, and which does not hinder relations between the branches.

President Perez made the above statement after attending the funeral service for radio announcer Gregorio Gonzalez Lovera, who was founding director of the radio group led by the radio station Ecos del Torbes, in San Cristobal on 6 April.

Defense Minister Discusses Dispute

*PA0604165193 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 6 Apr 93*

[Report by Johnny Ficarella]

[Text] Defense Minister Major General Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez stated the Supreme Court of Justice should resolve the conflict of jurisdiction between military and civilian justice, given the amparo writs ordered by Judge Braulio Sanchez.

The defense minister made this statement following a meeting he had on the morning of 5 April with officers of the Armed Forces High Command. This meeting was aimed at explaining that the Armed Forces have no influence over the polemics caused by the habeas corpus writs ordered by 26th Criminal Court Judge Braulio Sanchez, which were not allegedly seen by military authorities.

The fact of the matter is that the defense minister has filed a suit against Judge Sanchez and, in turn, the judge summoned to his court military authorities who failed to comply with his order. The defense minister stated that the trial against Judge Braulio Sanchez was opened because of his repeated interference with military justice.

[Begin Jimenez recording] The opening of summary investigations against judge Braulio Sanchez was prompted by his continuous interference with military courts, which have been taking place since 4 February. Judge Braulio Sanchez has been meddling in strict military affairs. He even intervened in sanctions applied to subordinates due to disciplinary problems and lack of observance of military regulations. [end recording]

General Ubaldo Lopez Barrios, president of the Military Court, also said the Supreme Court of Justice will resolve the difference of opinions between civilian and military

courts. In addition, he announced military authorities are hoping Judge Braulio Sanchez gives statements. Gen. Lopez Barrios explained that no trial can be pursued against the members of the Military Court at the 26th Criminal Court. In any event, this would have to be done by the Supreme Court of Justice, he concluded.

[Begin Lopez recording] It is not possible the judge is acting against the law. In other words, the government will do one part and the judge will do the other part. Given this, the judge should have sent this case to the other court. [end recording]

However, it will not be until 12 April when Supreme Court magistrates, specifically penal court magistrates, establish their stand on this conflict.

*** Fedecamaras Notes Support for Economic Package**

93SM0204A Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 10 Mar 93 p 16

[Article by Daniel Ivan Escamez]

[Text] Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] has reiterated its support for the economic package. The business leadership warns, however, that if changes are not made in the current economic scene, inertia will become more deep-seated and the standard of living will continue to decline.

According to the principal organization of the nation's business community, if "the changes that have been planned—and by now sufficiently analyzed—are not made, inertia will become more deep-seated, with petroleum and the public sector of the economy continuing to be our only sources of wealth. In that case, the per capita annual income of Venezuelans in the year 2000 will be on the order of \$1,675—as low as the corresponding figure for 1989—and will sadly result in the very real collective impoverishment of Venezuela."

At the same time, Fedecamaras reiterated its support of—and commitment to—the essential features of the program of reforms initiated in 1989, whose primary objective is to base Venezuela's development on the private sector of its economy. It further stated, however, that in the light of the actual results of the implementation of the program, changes have become necessary in order to ensure achievement of the objective of a free-enterprise economy functioning in a climate of confidence and social and political stability.

Fedecamaras has therefore decided to present—for consideration by the National Government, the governmental authorities, and the Venezuelan people—its Institutional Publicity Campaign entitled "Our Proposal to the Nation."

The objective of the campaign is to promote a body of concrete proposals oriented toward transformation of the nation's economy on the basis of greater participation by private enterprise.

"Our Proposal to the Nation" seeks to transmit the concept that despite the present difficult circumstances, the Venezuelan economy can grow in a sustained and stable manner through greater participation by a growing free enterprise sector.

*** Poll: Public Support for Economic Package Low**

93SM0204B Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 14 Mar 93 p D4

[Article by Milagros Duran]

[Text] According to the results of a public opinion survey in Venezuela—based on 1,480 interviews conducted in 10 Venezuelan cities—the majority of Venezuelans see their country "moving in the wrong direction" and are pessimistic about their future. However, 51 percent feel that their personal economic situation is positive.

This poll was taken by the U.S. firm Fairbanks, Maullin, Stevenson, and Associates between 15 and 25 January 1993. It showed that only one in four Venezuelans continue to support CAP's [President Carlos Andres Perez'] economic package and that the majority—55 percent—want to return to the former system.

Questioned concerning their views on the existing democratic system, 67 percent said they prefer a "real democracy" to the existing system, 70 percent called for firm support of the democratic political system, and 51 percent are optimistic about Venezuela's future. There is great confusion concerning all aspects that involve the economy, because many Venezuelans are not sure they understand either CAP's package or the former system.

On the other hand, only 20 percent of Venezuelans regard the United States as a friend of their country, and 57 percent regard it as not a friend of Venezuela. This is one of the lowest poll results for the United States in all of Latin America. Many Venezuelans feel that the United States does not respect their country's sovereignty and also believe that the U.S. Government imposes its policies on Venezuela. A small number regard the United States as a friend; they value the trade relations that exist between the two countries and feel that the United States is protecting Venezuela on the international scene.

Venezuelans regard the United States and Japan as political and social models.

In the Wrong Direction

The majority of Venezuelans see their country "moving in the wrong direction" and are pessimistic regarding their future. Nevertheless, 51 percent feel that their personal economic situation is positive.

We have also observed this phenomenon in many other countries. The people express their opinions on their country's situation.

The Questions

Table 1. In your opinion, is Venezuela on the right path or the wrong path? [all figures are percentages]

Right	15
Wrong	80

Table 2. Are you pessimistic or optimistic regarding Venezuela's future? [all figures are percentages]

Pessimistic	35 percent
Optimistic	51 percent

Table 3. How would you classify the economic situation of your family? [all figures are percentages]

Very good	14
Good	37
Poor	32
Very poor	17

The average monthly income in Venezuela is 22,000 bolivares (\$270).

The average household consists of 5.7 persons, 2.1 of whom contribute to the household income, 52 percent of which is spent for food.

Only 60 percent of the nation's workers feel they have adequate job security; the remainder expect to lose their jobs in the near future.

Table 4. Do you prefer a "real" democracy or the existing democracy? [all figures are percentages]

Real democracy	67
Existing democracy	23

General Visconti is perceived as a coward and traitor by almost half of Venezuelan citizens. All the men implicated in the two attempted coups in 1992—including Mayor Chavez—receive few favorable responses in the surveys.

Table 5. Favorable responses [all figures are percentages]

Hugo Chavez	27
Armed forces	7
Gruber Odreman	5

AD [Democratic Action] and COPEI [Social Christian Party] continue to be the dominant political parties in Venezuela.

Table 6. Which party do you support? [all figures are percentages]

COPEI	25
AD	22
MAS [Movement Toward Socialism]	9
Others	5
Support return to the previous economic system	55
Support the CAP economic package	25

Venezuelans strongly support democracy, but they feel that the system needs to be improved dramatically.

Table 7. What system do you prefer? [all figures are percentages]

Democracy	70
Other	12

Experience, and attention to the problems of the average Venezuelan, are two characteristics that the voters will look for in the 1993 presidential elections.

Table 8. What would you expect from a candidate? [all figures are percentages]

Experience	58
Attention to problems	42
Executive ability	37
Integrity	23

*** Isturiz Denies Party Finances Exiled Coups**
93SM0200A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish
3 Mar 93 p A13

[Article by Antonio Fernandez Nays]

[Excerpt] Aristobulo Isturiz, the mayor of Caracas, made a statement yesterday categorically denying that the La Causa Radical [Radical Cause] party is financing the military personnel responsible for the coup attempt who have sought asylum in Peru. A report to this effect was made public a few days ago by Luis Emilio Rondon, deputy secretary general of the Democratic Action (AD).

"Something is happening to Luis Emilio Rondon. I think that they are going crazy," Isturiz stated, ridiculing the statement made by the AD leader. "If only we had the capacity to finance military personnel from here. The report is false, first of all, because we do not have the resources, and second, because we have no need to be financing military personnel in Peru. And third, because we have demonstrated our spirit of democracy, struggle, and confrontation."

The mayor of Caracas expressed the view that if anything has strengthened democratic hopes in Venezuela, it has been "the conduct of La Causa Radical." He said that Andres Velasquez demonstrated in Guayana "that the AD-COPEI [Social Christian Party] apparatus and the corrupt Mafia gangs could be defeated through the ballot." He added that his party won victory in the most loyal AD state "despite all the trickery, barriers, and heaps of files the institutional system in this country has built up."

He pointed to his own experience in Caracas, and he said that things had reached such an extreme point that it was not until yesterday, two months after the municipal government was installed, that Ofelia Casique, the 13th La Causa Radical municipal council member, was recognized. "And still Luis Emilio Rondon, who—he and his party—imposed a council member on us in addition to the 13 being sworn in today, is claiming that we are financing military personnel. I believe that what is at the bottom of this is a great fear of the dizzying increase in the support for the candidacy of Andres Velasquez."

We asked Isturiz what he thought of the fact that former mayor Claudio Fermin says Isturiz has enough resources to carry his administration forward, but that all he has done to date is to complain.

"Out of respect for myself, for my principles, and for my convictions, I do not debate with Claudio Fermin, because I might be accused of taking advantage."

Isturiz was asked if it was true he has the resources left him by Fermin from the last tax collection.

"I believe that Claudio Fermin has no idea of what he left behind, because he did not concern himself with such things. His head, his eyes, and his mind were focused elsewhere. I want to think this—that he is an extremely irresponsible person. Because otherwise, I would have to think other things about him."

A reporter told Isturiz that another charge being made against the current municipal administration is that it has been able to collect approximately 3 billion bolivares to date, but that no administrative progress can be seen.

He was asked what has been done with these funds.

"What do they mean, what have we done?" Isturiz retorted, surprised. "We are operating with a budget that was extended, and we are drafting our own, which will go into effect as of 1 April. With last year's budget of 7 billion bolivares, we are attacking the contingency projects in this quarter, which means the 500 ravines, road repair, clearing the eroded gullies, 20,000 sewers, hydrants, and other things, for example the rehabilitation of the buses."

The mayor explained that with the present resources, the current problems are being dealt with, while the future social construction in the municipality will be undertaken with the new budget. "Thus anyone who is hoping I will prove irresponsible, and that I will build a clinic wherever I see a vacant lot is mistaken. That is what has been done here, and anarchy has prevailed."

He said that the municipality is now drafting an urban policy based on consultations with the parishes, in order to carry out the projects the people want. He said that 15 meetings have been held, and four more are scheduled with the residents of El Valle, Antimano, Santa Rosalia, and Altagracia. He said that these meetings will be held next weekend.

Isturiz explained that there is still a need to provide premises for the parochial councils recently sworn in. The mayor said that each will have an architect, an engineer, a crew of workers, a water crew, and an urban sanitation office.

"And all of this, which Claudio Fermin did not achieve in three years, in three months' time," he noted. [passage omitted]